



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

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

H.B. 1725 proposes to reduce the State's projected expenditures by suspending prescription drug coverage for Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) health plans from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2015. Additionally, this measure allows employees to purchase prescription drug coverage through the EUTF.

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. 1725 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 \$81 million in fiscal year 2009-2010 and \$91 million in fiscal year 2010-2011.

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Vice-Chair  
Michael J. Molina

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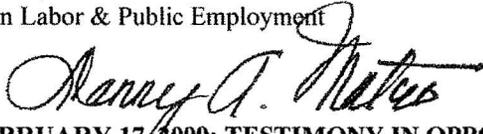


Director of Council Services  
Ken Fukuoka

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.mauicounty.gov/council](http://www.mauicounty.gov/council)

February 15, 2009

TO: Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

FROM: Danny A. Mateo  
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 17, 2009; TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1725,  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST  
FUND**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to prohibit the health benefits plan of the employer-union health benefits trust fund from providing prescription drug coverage. The measure also allows the board of trustees to make prescription drug benefits available to employee-beneficiaries at no cost to the employers.

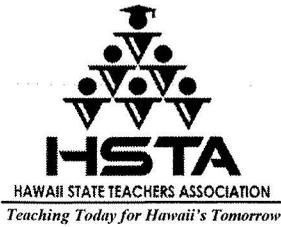
The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I oppose this measure for the following reasons:

1. Requiring County employees to pay for their prescription drug benefits will place a great burden on the employees and their families who are already dealing with difficult economic conditions resulting in further social and economic problems.
2. Reducing the medical benefits through cancelling prescription drug coverage could result in the County losing employees and hinder the County's ability to recruit new employees who are well qualified.

For the foregoing reasons, I oppose this measure.

ocs:proj:legis:09legis:09testimony: hb1725\_paf09-043a\_scj



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

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
LABOR AND FINANCE

RE: HB 1725 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH  
FUND

February 18, 2009

ROGER TAKABAYASHI, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

*HB 1725*

*Revised testimony.*

*Please replace old  
testimony dated Feb. 13  
with this.*

The Hawaii State Teachers Association opposes HB 1725, which prohibits health benefits plans of the employer-union health benefits trust fund from providing prescription drug coverage and allows the board of trustees to make prescription drug benefits available through drug coverage plans paid for entirely by employee-beneficiaries.

Requiring prescription drug benefits to be voluntary, with no employer contribution, would not only be unfair; it would also be detrimental, in that prescription drugs often act to reduce overall medical costs by helping to prevent more serious ailments and the need for costly medical, surgical and hospital services.

Similar plan have already been considered by the board of trustees and rejected in the past. The board is in the best position to determine the specific rates and benefit plans that are affordable to both the employers and employees. This measure would also be tantamount to the state breaking its promise to employees regarding the benefits that were told would be part of their contract package. They have done their work and rightfully expect the state to keep its end of the bargain.

We strongly urge the committee not to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**From:** JessakaMitz [jessakamitz@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:54 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony Opposing Bills, By Jessica Mitsui

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony this morning. My name is Jessica Mitsui and I work for the Judiciary in the State of Hawaii. As a public employee for 1.5 years, I am outraged by the types of bills that are being presented tomorrow and next Tuesday that include furloughing state employees (HB 1106), stop medicare for retirees (HB1718), stop employer contribution for health benefits (HB1719), stop prescription drug coverage under EUTF (HB1725), the increase of age and service time for retiring (HB1715), stop payments for life insurance (HB 1726), and stopping our dental and vision coverage (HB 1727).

I do not see how cutting our benefits would benefit the state as a whole. I think what you are doing will force more of us off of this beautiful island we call "home." I do not make much money as it is, and it is downright wrong to make everyone suffer through this, especially those who are at the bottom of the totem pole as it is. I am only a Clerk IV, and cannot afford to be making any less money than I am making today.

The cost of living in Hawaii is extremely high. How am I supposed to be expected to live with around \$150-200 less a month in my pocket if you impose a furlough on me? If a furlough NEEDS TO HAPPEN, then I do not think it should be for more than one day a month and I think it should be for EVERYONE, not just some of us. There are people who really need the money, but as Calvin Say says, we all need to suffer some of this pain, right? By the way...while we're on that subject, who is he to say we all have to suffer? He thinks he's going to suffer? The people with more money than us do not care if they have to take a pay cut because it will not impact them as much as it will impact us. He has no right to say that we're all going to share in the pain and suffering, including him. He isn't one of us.

I have a problem with the bill that would cut medicare because how am I supposed to pay my medical bills when I get older? First, you want to cut my regular pay, now you want to take away a benefit that I should be getting when I am older. That is very unfair, and especially unfair to those who are close to retirement now. I have many co-workers/friends who will probably be forced into early retirement just to keep the benefits they have now since you want to take them away after a certain date. And, how will you fill those positions if they do decide to retire, when there's a freeze in place? You can't.

My health and my family's health is very important to me. I do not see how stopping employer contribution to our health benefits helps the state. The state doesn't pay enough as it is. Sometimes I feel like I am paying to WORK. It makes me outraged. I get all this money taken out of my paycheck, and for what? For them to want to change it so I'll have to pay even more? What about my mom? She is also a state worker and with her deteriorating health, she will need these benefits more than ever. The state won't help a person who has given almost half their life in service to the state? That's just wrong and feels like a slap in the face. What about me? I started working for the state because my mom always told me I needed health benefits, but if you take that away from me, what will I be working here for? I should just go back to my old job where I had no health coverage, because it does pay more anyway.

I am only 24 years old, and to impose a higher age and service time before retirement seems cruel. I do not want to have to work until I am 65, or whatever ridiculous number of years you want us to work to. My grandmother died at age 68, so most likely that's around how long I will live. That means I will only have about 3 years to do

whatever it is I need to do before I die. Three years is not enough for me. I will be old and wrinkly and have no time to spend my life how I truly want to. That's very unfair of the state if they treat their hard working employees this way.

The curtailing of payment for life insurance is a horrible thing. What if I died and I had no life insurance? The state is supposed to provide for the people, not be tight with their money so that we can't even die in peace and have to burden our families by making them foot the bill after death.

The last thing that really gets me is the state wanting to get rid of our dental and vision coverage. I think the state just wants us to go blind and have rotten teeth, then we'll give better customer service, right? No. How in the world are we supposed to work if we can't see? More than half of the jobs here deal with reading and speaking, so without those, what are we supposed to do? And, if you take away our prescription coverage as well, then how will we pay for our dental and vision out of our pocket? Especially when you'll be giving us less money!

As you can see, my views on these bills are very strong and I just cannot comprehend why you want us, the little people, to suffer. I can't survive with all of these benefits taken away from me, and I know a lot of others won't be able to survive like this either. Please do not pass these bills.

There are so many other ways the state could save money or make more money. Some of the things that I am in support of is drug testing welfare recipients, because they shouldn't be getting my tax money if they are taking advantage of the system. I also think the boot is a great idea to nab those people who have multiple traffic tickets. Some things that were not introduced, but I think would be great for us as a state is a mandatory shutdown of power for the whole island like when our power went out a few months ago. As long as we are forewarned about it, we can make accommodations for it. It gives families more time to be together without things that require power, and it would save a lot of money on power for the state as a whole. I also think a lot of money is wasted every time road widening or pothole filling is not done properly. Take Ewa Beach for example, they widened our road once, it fixed NOTHING, took FOREVER, and it is still NOT FIXED. The idea was not thought out well because whoever planned it doesn't live in Ewa Beach so didn't understand what the true problem was! About the potholes, every time they are filled with a material that obviously doesn't hold, why are we wasting money every time we fill up a hold and not just fix it with something that actually works?

I hope I was able to clearly express myself in this testimony, and I hope you folks really do what is right for the state as a whole and not take it out on state workers. All I can do is write my little letter and hope someone actually cares enough to even read it. If the island goes down the drain, I will have to relocate, because if the price to live here is too high and we do not get any type of break, it's just not worth it anymore.

Thank you for your time,

-Jessica Mitsui

## **yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Trevina Wiest [wiesttrevina@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:08 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1718,HB1719,HB1725, HB1725,HB1723,HB1727

### **Follow these simple steps to submit your testimony:**

1) Write a short message to express why you are opposed to the bill(s) – be sure to indicate the bill number(s). Feel free to cut and paste, or copy parts of the sample below.

2) Send it to the Labor & Public Employment Committee

Simply e-mail the committee directly at [LABtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:LABtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov).

- or -

Upload your document at [www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony) (State Legislature website)

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Trevina Wiest

As a public employee for 3 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker

Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1718,HB 1719,HB 1725,HB 1723,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 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.

## yamashita1- Kathy

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**From:** Beverly Lashley [blashley@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:45 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1718, HG1719, HB1725, HB1106, HB1723, HB1727

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

My name is Beverly Lashley and I have been a public servant for the State of Hawaii for over 30 years. I humbly ask that you vote no on House Bills 1718, 1719, 1723, 1725, 1727 and 1106.

I am appalled that the bill introduced by Speaker Calvin Say shows very little regard for the people who are the nuts and bolts of our government.

In regards to HB 1106, as a parent of a college student, I cannot afford to be furloughed. Can Speaker Say personally guarantee that my daughter's college expenses will be paid?

A reduction in my salary even for a day would bring hardship to my family. As it is, we live paycheck to paycheck. My husband is working in an unstable position and can have his hours cut or be laid off at any time. In these tough times, many state employees are some of the last remaining wage earners in their families. I 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 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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Nemy Carriaga, I am 29 years old and have worked as a public employee for 5 years. I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically HB 1106, HB 1725, HB 1727, and actually I protest against majority of his Bills.

HB 1106, I see what it supposedly protects in Section 3 but your other Bills seem to just cancel what you are supposedly helping us protect. How exactly does that work?

HB 1725 and HB 1727. Words against each specific Bill would wind up being repetitive so I would rather combine my thoughts on all these Bills into one lump sum. I lost my job at JCPenney's when they pulled their stores out of the State and at the time I was uncertain of my future, this ended up being a blessing in disguise otherwise I never would have pursued a career with the County. You always hear how good it's supposed to be to work for the County because your future will be secure...a job for life & good benefits. With these proposed Bills I have to wonder if those beliefs, for lack of a better word, are true.

I recently got married and added my husband to my medical because it was a better plan than what he got through his workplace, to even contemplate the possibility of having to pay the entire cost of a family medical plan that does not include vision, I have glasses. Dental, my daughter will one day need a retainer. Drugs, we all get sick at some time or another and it is required for my child to get certain shots at certain points in her life. Should I divorce so that I can seek assistance? Should I enroll my daughter in Quest after you pass this to ensure she gets the medical care a growing child needs? With everything you are proposing I sincerely doubt that I will be able to provide for her as I should.

I already live paycheck to paycheck with the knowledge that some of the monies that I don't get to take home are going towards medical, my retirement, as well as to Social Security and taxes just as they should be according what our "leaders" dictate, I've accepted that this is how it goes. But if the Bills you are asking for are passed then that means that for about five years one paycheck each month will go towards medical alone, if I'm lucky. It means that there will be times when I won't even bring home a regular paycheck because I won't be going in to work. There will be times where I decide not to see a doctor because I know that the medicine that they would prescribe will be unaffordable to me. And who is to say that if these Bills are passed that you won't bring up another Bill extending this time of period, prolonging the suffering that we are sure to have to endure. As a public servant I ask you how this helps? You may be trying to help the deficit, but we are not the ones that put us there. Please do not walk all over us and expect us to bear these burdens and think that we will not suffer for them, it is not our place. By bringing forth these Bills you are pointing the finger at us, your public servants, as if we are the ones that have done the wrong and can fix it, please remember that when you point a finger at us, you are pointing four fingers at yourself. Please be an example of what you are asking of us and take a cut yourselves, as Mr. Say said, "everyone should share in some pain."

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Terry Proctor [docproc@usa.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 7:56 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony

Committee on labor and Public Employment

Friday Feb 13th

8:30am

HB 1718, 1719,1725, 1727

February 12, 2009

Honorable Karl Rhoads;

My name is Terry Proctor I am the Principal of Wilcox elementary School on Kauai. I have been with the Department of Education for over 20 years now and I feel the need to urge you to vote against HB's 1718,1719,1725, and 1727. It is unfair to balance the State's budget on the back of the state employees. If these bills are passed we are likely to see a very large number of educators retire before Dec 31, 2009. We already are having a hard time filling our positions with qualified workers and a mass exodus would truly put our education system in a perilous situation. Recent predictions show that a large percentage of teachers and administrators are going to retire in the next five years and the DOE will certainly not be able to cope with that scenario. If these bills pass then the retirement timeline will be accelerated and compressed into 6 months. I firmly believe that our struggling school system will collapse under such a burden.

It is also unfair to make a promise that we will have funded healthcare and retirement benefits after serving for 30, or 40 or more years and then take it away. Many of us

have worked diligently (for not a lot of money) for our entire careers with the goal of reaching retirement and to have our benefits removed is a terrible way to treat our valuable human resources.

On behalf of all of our hard working state employees especially educators please vote no on HB's 1718,1719,1725, and 1727.

As an educator I obviously have a personal stake in this but I am making this plea for our children, because I truly believe this type of legislation will cripple an already struggling educational system.

Terry E. Proctor

Principal

Wilcox Elementary School

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## yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** Baker, Kathleen K. [kathleen.baker@doh.hawaii.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:34 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Do Not Support These Bills  
**Attachments:** image001.gif; image002.gif; image003.gif; image004.gif

HB 1719 - Stop employer contribution for health benefits for those retiring after 7/1/09  
HB 1725 - Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF  
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 strongly urge you NOT to support the above bills. While it is known the salaries for a state position are not comparable to the mainland, the benefits are good. I have stayed in a state position because of the benefits and not the salary. A comparable position on the mainland would have doubled my salary. By supporting any of the above bills you are punishing people where many have worked years to accumulate benefits for their retirement.

Thank you,

Kathleen K. Baker

*Kathleen Kromer Baker, Ph.D.*

*Research Statistician*

*OHSM, Statistics and Surveys*

*Hawai'i Department of Health*

*808 586 8050*

[kathleen.baker@doh.hawaii.edu](mailto:kathleen.baker@doh.hawaii.edu)

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning.

My name is Myra Elliott.

As a public employee for 10 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB1719, HB1715, HB1725, HB1726, HB1727, HB1723, HB1718, and HB1106. I am a sole bread winner in my family and I would like to protect the benefits that I have now. I cannot afford to pay more for benefits or have them lost. This would cripple myself and others I work with, as most are in the same circumstance.

I have been employed by Kauai Veteran's Memorial Hospital as a registered nurse. Hawaii and the rest of the country are faced with a critical nurse shortage. We have already been faced with the fact that we are not able to attract nurses to the state hospital system due to lower wages (as much as 15 to 20 dollars lower an hour) and now Mr. Say would like to enact laws that greatly reduce the benefits that the state provides to attract employees, especially nurses. This is very concerning to myself and my fellow nurses. We have to work many times short staffed with the population now sicker than before. We have an older nurse population. Many people in Hawaii do not have medical benefits and come to the hospital many times too late. We are exposed to many diseases, infections and all sorts of nasty conditions, so our chances of contracting an illness are greater. We may not be able to enjoy a healthful retirement, and will therefore definitely need medical, prescription and dental coverage. We sacrifice everyday, as well as our families. These bills are not fair to us hard working nurses or other employees in the state systems.

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, a registered nurse, 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 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.

Thank you , Myra Elliott (Unit 09 Kauai)

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Jon D. [jdonios@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:01 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB regarding state employees

Aloha,

My name is Barbara Donios. I work for the University of Hawaii 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.

I urge you not to support the following bills: HB 1106, HB1718, HB1719, HB1725, HB 1723, HB1715, HB 1726, HB 1727.

Should you need to contact me, you can call me at 671-0454, email me at [jdonios@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jdonios@hawaii.rr.com) or 94-690 Kehela St. Waipahu, HI 96797.

Thank you,

Barbara Donios

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Jack\_Little/KEONEPOKO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:47 AM  
**To:** Rep. Faye Hanohano; Rep. Mark Nakashima  
**Cc:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** please vote NO on HB1723, HB1715, HB1726, HB1727,HB1718, HB1719, HB1725, and HB110

Aloha, my name is Jack Little and I live in your district and voted for you.

I work for Keonepoko Elementary School and am a member of HSTA. I have worked as a teacher on the Big Island for the last 18 years.

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.

I am urging you to vote "NO" on HB1723, HB1715, HB1726, HB1727,HB1718, HB1719, HB1725, and HB1106.

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.

Thank you,  
Jack Little

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** 50 INOUE [50inouye@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:48 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** public employee bills

Dear Labor Committee,

There are many government employees making 20 years or more of service who have been loyal to the government and who have been hit hard by the poor economy. Spouses have been laid off or have died and they have young dependents relying on them and their benefits. It's a travesty to take away these benefits from those who have served the government faithfully all these years and who have planned on these benefits when they retire. Please kokua and vote NO on all the bills that take away benefits from public employees. Bills include HB 1106,HB1718,HB1719,HB1725,HB1723,HB1726,HB1727.

Mahalo

## **yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Lee, Robert [rlee3@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:37 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Opposition Testimony; y FRI, 02/13/2009 & TUES, 2/17/2009

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

My name is Robert Lee and I am providing testimony in strong opposition to HB 1719, HB 1725, HB 1723, HB1726, & HB 1727, all relating to employee benefits. Hearings related to those issues are taking place on Friday, February 13, 2009 at 08: 30 a.m. and Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 08:30 a.m.

I have worked in city government for many years after foregoing opportunities in the private sector for more money. I enjoy my job and am very good at what I do and have been recognized as an exceptional employee.

One of the attractions of working in the public sector for me are health benefits. Should those benefits had not existed I would have likely not become a public sector employee.

Those health benefits are the result of the collective bargaining process and any changes to those benefits should take place through that same process and not through legislation. Presently HGEA and state and city governments are engaged in negotiations related to coming to terms for a new contract. Should not that be a more appropriate approach to changing benefits? And why would legislators assume the risk of disappointing a large number of their own constituents needlessly when state and city governments are already engaged with public employees?

As a union member I can accept changes which occur through a collective bargaining process, however, I cannot accept legislative driven changes. Should those changes occur during this legislative session, I will be deeply disappointed and respond by registering my disappointment through my vote in the next election. I will encourage others to share in my disappointment and vote accordingly as well.

***Bob***

Robert K. W. Lee, Jr.  
HGEA Unit 13 member

## yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** Jared Yurow [drjyurow@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:21 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** drjyurow@msn.com  
**Subject:** Opposition to HB 1725 and HB 1727

2/12/09

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of HB 1725 and HB 1727. My name is Dr. Jared Yurow, and I am a Hawaii licensed psychologist. As a public employee for over fifteen years and a citizen of this state, I am deeply troubled by bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1725 and HB 1727.

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. HB 1727 prohibits vision and dental coverage. Both bills will place an undue hardship on my family and may prove injurious not only to me but to other public workers. Although HB 1725 is only temporary, it affects significantly the cost of prescription medications. This is especially important to me, as I have glaucoma, high blood pressure and acid reflux. With chronic diseases that require medication, these bills, coupled with talk of salary cuts and rises in our premiums is shameful for a state that prides itself on taking care of ohana and calling itself "The Health State." It may well prove catastrophic for our elderly, sick, or recovering public workers and retirees. Both bills will deter a number of employees and retirees from accessing medicine that is essential to maintaining health and may ultimately prove more costly because conditions are treated after they have progressed. 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.

Sincerely,

Jared Yurow, Psy.D.

Hawaii Licensed Psychologist PSY #573

510 Iliaina Street

Kailua, HI 96734

(808) 224-6507 (Cell)

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## **yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Kim Murphy [ollo1188@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:25 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Proposed Bills Affecting State Employees

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I have been a public employee for the State of Hawaii for 7 years and am upset about some of the bills being considered that target public employees. I understand the state is in a fiscal crisis and needs to take action. I believe all residents should share in shouldering the burden not just state employees.

It is my sincere hope that the following Bills Do Not pass:

HB 1718  
HB 1719  
HB 1720  
HB 1721  
HB 1722  
HB 1723  
HB 1725  
HB 1727

I understand HB 1715 proposes to increase the minimum age and length of service requirement for retirement for new public employees. I understand HB 1719 proposes to suspend EUTF payments for retirees who retire prior to Medicare retirement age. One issue to consider with these bills would be the incentive provided to state employees to work longer, at a time when their salaries are highest, rather than encouraging them to leave state service. I can't help but wonder, and hope someone can assess, whether continuing to pay these high salaries would cost the state more than the retirement benefits.

I do not object to HB 1106 relating to furloughs. When I worked for the State of Massachusetts, in the early 90's, they had a fiscal crisis and state employees were furloughed, for a period of time. Furloughs seem like a better solution to what might be a temporary fiscal crisis. It can be implemented as long as necessary and changed as conditions change.

Making long term changes to the state employee benefit package, in response to what might be a temporary fiscal crisis, could result in losing valuable state employees. Finding qualified candidates, to work on the neighbor islands, which have problems with their health care and education systems, is very difficult. If it is necessary to remove some benefits then I suggest decreasing sick leave, which should assist in increasing productivity. Another idea that I have not heard being considered is moving to the 4 day work week, like many other states have done. This could result in significant savings.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts on these matters.

Kim Murphy

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**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** faye kawaoka [kawaokaf001@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 6:46 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Bills which directly impact State of Hawaii workers

RE: Bills HB1723, HB1715, HB1726, HB1727, HB1727, **HB1718, HB1719, HB1725**

**I am totally opposed to the above bills. I am a 58 year old with 27 years of service with the Dept. of Human Services. I have dedicated my life as a public servant knowing that the only rewards to look forward to were the State retirement benefits which included medical benefits.**

**You are trying to take away everything that I have worked diligently for. The burden of the State should not be carried only by the employees of the State.**

If you implement these bills, you will soon find that you will have no one willing to work for the State of Hawaii. The pay is already not up to par with the private sector and the only drawing power were the medical and retirement benefits.

While you want to give all the poor people access to medical benefits, you now want to take that away from the working class?

## yamashita1- Kathy

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**From:** Monica\_DeCosta/AINAHAINA/HIDOE@notes.k12hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:10 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** testimony

Here is my testimony regarding the following bill:

**#HB1536** - I think freezing salaries for Governor, Lt. Governor is not fair as far as the amount of work that it takes to run the State of Hawaii. I realize that it is a time consuming job and also never ending. Over worked and under paid.

**#HB1106** - Furloughing employees - is out of the question - you could implement it for all new employees that start after a certain date. The ones that have been in the system for along time (let's say 1993 till 2000) should not be touch.

**#HB1718** - I would need more clarification on this one.

**#HB1719** - This bill should be dissolved

**#HB1725** - We all need drug coverage as we get older money will be tighter let along when we all retire if they want to take everything away from us - we will have more sick people who can't afford to go to the doctor let along get medicine to help out. What is this State coming to?

**#HB1723** - It need to be voted on. I bet Clayton Say will get everything that he is trying to stop he will benefit from it.

**#HB1715** - That will never happen as long as the union will help out. It should be greatly consider.

**#HB1726** - Is it the FREE one?

**#HB1727** - We need to keep this coverage. If we can't see or our teeth go bad what will happen? We can't eat or we will be blind. Doctor visit are expensive.

The way it looks they are trying to take everything away from those of us who are hard working people. Take benefits away from those who come to work late and leave early. It happens at alot of our schools.

Or like in our SPED classes - There is 1 teacher and EA's and skill trainers in classrooms. Cut down the EA position. We need to see how many SPED children we at the school level and then make cuts from there. SPED children need all the help they can get but let's also think about the regular ED students. Someone needs to check all of the school see how many SPED children there are. Please investigate so that we don't have to cut benefits from the workers. After all we are over worked and under paid. People think that State/C & C worker are lazy (SOME ARE) not all.

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## yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** Linda [miyahiraa006@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:01 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** repchang@capital.hawaii.gov; Rep. Mark Nakashima  
**Subject:** FW: HB 1723, 1715, 1726, 1727, 1719, 1725

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**From:** Linda [mailto:miyahiraa006@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 8:43 PM  
**To:** 'Linda\_Miyahira@notes.k12.hi.us'  
**Subject:** FW: HB 1723, 1715, 1726, 1727, 1719, 1725

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**From:** Linda [mailto:miyahiraa006@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 8:42 PM  
**To:** 'LABtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov'  
**Cc:** 'repnakashima@capitol.hawaii.gov'; 'repchang@capital.hawaii.gov'  
**Subject:** HB 1723, 1715, 1726, 1727, 1719, 1725

Aloha Representative Nakashima and Representative Chang,

We are Linda and Alan Miyahira, both state employees, who live in your district and voted for you. Linda has been an educational assistant for the past 10+ years and works at Kaumana Elementary School. Because of budget cuts, she has been informed that her position has been cut for the coming school year. Alan has worked as a carpenter/maintenance worker for 25 years. We are members of HGEA and UPW. As taxpayers, we spend money at local businesses every day to buy food, clothing and other needs. It is unacceptable for the House to look to public employees to balance the budget. We are at the mercy of lawmakers who look to the easiest source to take from – public servants. We work hard at our jobs, pay our taxes and want to be able to have a comfortable life. It's near to impossible to survive in Hawaii. Every time we receive a nominal raise, it's taken away by the ever-increasing cost of medical benefits. We chose to work for the state because of the benefits offered – not the salary. We are both close to retirement and don't need to have the benefits changed on us. We implore you to be fair by looking to all citizens of Hawaii to balance the budget, and not just the public sector. Please vote no on the above bills.

Mahalo,  
Linda & Alan Miyahira

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Kailana Flores [kailanaf@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:57 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony

I am a member of the HGEA, working as a registered nurse on Maui. I have 3 young children and a husband insured through me. It is so, extremely unjust for you to take from our benefits to recuperate money lost by your mismanagement of government funds. It is as if you are punishing us for the wrongdoing of others. I firmly object to bills HB1719,1725,1723,1715,1726,1727. We will all be paying attention to who voted for what in the coming elections.

Sincerely,  
Kailana Flores  
Unit 9

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Laura Gonzalez [lauranng@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:00 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** lauranng@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Take-away 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 have been a state employee for 12 years. The bills listed above directly relate to the main reasons most of us became state workers, the benefits. The pay is not good and the workload is ridiculous. People have traditionally become state workers for the benefits including and especially, the retirement and medical. To remove these benefits would cause many to leave the state workforce (as many have already begun contemplating since these bills were introduced) leaving those left behind with an even bigger shortage and impossible workload, not to mention an inability to fill positions. This is already very difficult. The office that I work in is short one social worker, and one social service assistant and has been for quite some time. Without the benefits that we are threatened with losing, where is the draw for people to work for the state? I sincerely believe that taking away these benefits will only bring the state down and further handicap our ability to serve the public.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Kathleen Kim [gkim51@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:11 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony regarding State Employees

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning. I and most of my colleagues have been employed by the State of Hawaii for about 30+ years. It is punitive and a travesty that your proposed solution is narrowly focusing on eliminating and/or reducing the health benefits for state workers. We all have worked long and hard and earned these benefits and to have them wiped away merely to balance the state budget is reprehensible. If there is another shortfall in the future, What would be next? Instead of penalizing the state employees by reducing and/or eliminating their dental, vision and drug coverage/benefits, you could and should be looking at ways to generate additional revenue(s) into the state economy. Although, at this critical juncture, it may not be a pleasant remedy, an increase of the excise/sales tax would generate millions of dollars and more than offset this anticipated deficit. This solution is 'shared' by everyone in the state of Hawaii including the tourists, not just state employees. Food items should be exempt from the increase which would lessen the pain of an increase in the tax. Hawaii has one of the lowest tax rates in the nation in comparison to other states. If you look long and hard, there are other revenue generating options available including user fees, registration fees, excise tax increases on alcohol, tobacco and also an increase in penalties for violations, etc. Additionally, programs that have outlived its usefulness should be evaluated and perhaps terminated. Taking this simplistic approach of taking away benefits from state employees is unjust, dishonorable and shameful.

Therefore, I urge you to vote NO on the following bills:

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.

Kathleen Kim

## yamashita1- Kathy

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**From:** alicam@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:09 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Alison Cameron and my husband is Greg Cameron. I have been a public employee with the DOE for 8 years and Greg in the Hawai'i County Fire Dept for 14 years. Greg has recently been diagnosed with Stage 4 Metastatic Colon Cancer and is fighting for his life. He is only 49 and we have 2 children. We are deeply upset about the bills introduced by Speaker Say as they would deeply impact our family's ability to survive. Specifically the bills related to our medical, drug, dental and vision coverage, bills HB 1723, 1727, 1725.

HB 1719 is also of concern to us. As civil servants, we 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.

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 our 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. We 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 1723, which limits the employer contribution to medical coverage to 55 % is of great concern for us. As stated, my husband Greg is currently undergoing treatment for Stage 4 cancer. We talk every day about how blessed we are to have such good medical coverage that we can afford to get treatment for him. If we had to pay more, we wouldn't be able to afford the treatment that he is getting and he would die, leaving a widow with young children to bring up on her own. Then I would really be in trouble trying to pay for my children's medical coverage as a single mother on a State salary. Please think about how these bills not only impact the greater health of our state workers and state as a whole, but also how it will impact individual families. Please vote NO for this bill and all the bills introduced that take away rights and benefits from public workers.

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. If this bill is passed, our family is down the tubes as Greg's cancer treatment involves many medications to help him with nausea, blood clots etc. He will not make it without these drugs, we cannot afford them on our own and we have two children to raise up. Without drug coverage, we are sunk.

Also HB 1727, taking away coverage for vision and dental. While not a lot is covered under dental plans, cleanings are and those are a preventative measure which is important to families, especially those with children. Dental benefits are very important for us, as are

vision benefits. Why not continue to provide this coverage to help with prevention of problems through allowing us to get teeth cleanings and dental exams and thus cut down on the amount of expense and problems that in happen if we don't get these preventative measures?

We understand that the state is in trouble and that things must change to pull us through. But don't cut out the benefits of those that really help to keep the State running and provide essential services to those in need. I work in school as a Behavioral Health Specialist, helping children with behavioral and emotional problems, thus helping to care for the future of our state. My husband Greg saves lives as a paramedic and rescue specialist. We have lived and worked here our whole lives. We struggle. We can't afford to struggle anymore as our medical benefits are taken away and our salaries cut or capped.

I strongly feel that these bills will cause more problems and economic hardship in the State of Hawai'i, not less. More families will be in trouble. Then what?

I beg you to vote "no" on all of these bills that take away benefits from public employees. Please!

Sincerely,  
Alison Cameron  
Greg Cameron

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Fay Ann Chun. As a public employee for almost 6 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1725, 1723, 1727.

HB1725 - Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF  
HB 1723 - Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable  
HB 1727 - Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage

Among graduating from high school, college and graduate school – being hired as a state employee was one of the proudest moments to my family. As a civil servant, I chose to work for less pay to be able to contribute to the community in a meaningful way. On balance, I believed that I would be able to count on a safe retirement and more importantly to me at this stage of my life - safe and reasonable health care coverage.

Below are the claims from the state's website:

**From <http://hawaii.gov/hrd/main/EEBenefits/> [Employee Benefits]**

The State of Hawai'i is one of Hawai'i's largest employers and offers a competitive compensation package. In addition to salary, which is an important part of the compensation package, an employee may be eligible for a broad range of valuable benefits, such as comprehensive health care insurance, life insurance, retirement programs, sick leave, vacation leave and paid holidays. The benefits information provided below is not a contract or binding agreement. It does not supersede laws, rules, collective bargaining agreements, policies and procedures, and benefit plan documents pertaining to the various subject matters covered. Benefits vary by type of employment appointment and applicable collective bargaining agreement, and are subject to change.

**From <http://hawaii.gov/hrd/main/EEBenefits/HealthLifeInsurance/> [HEALTH INSURANCE]**

The State offers eligible employees a choice of health insurance plans - medical, drug, chiropractic, dental, and vision - through the Hawai'i Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF). The EUTF is administratively attached to the Department of Budget and Finance and is under the direction of a Board of Trustees. For more information on the State's health care plans, please visit the EUTF website at...

These statements will become obsolete or "false advertisements" if Speaker Say's bills were allowed to become a reality.

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. This is similar for HB 1727 and the related HB 1723.

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

## **yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Carol Llego [carol\_llego@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:20 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Please vote "no" on all of these bills that take away benefits from public employees

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Carol D. Llego. As a public employee for 7 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically:

- 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

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 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.

Aloha,  
Carol D. Llego

-- Many Ways to Say I Love You --

From the very beginning of our lives, we've had a natural need to receive. Without it, we couldn't have grown. We wouldn't have wanted nourishment; we wouldn't have wanted care. And what we must realize is that we do not outgrow this need to receive. Receiving times are for everybody, and so are giving times.

-- Fred Rogers --

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** rhoads3-Christine on behalf of Rep. Karl Rhoads  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:27 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: Please vote NO

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**From:** Hager [mailto:wlhager@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 5:14 AM  
**To:** Rep. Karl Rhoads  
**Subject:** Please vote NO

Subject: Please vote NO on bills  
HB1717,HB1718,HB1719,HB1720,HB1721,HB1722,HB1723,HB1724,HB1725,  
and HB1106.

Aloha,

My Name is Walter Hager I work for the County of Maui 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 agree or believe that it is 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 have made a career in public service knowing that my pay may not be as high as in the private sector, but that I could rely on retirement and health benefits for myself and my family being there when it came time for me to retire.

I think that it is shameful for the House to even consider taking these benefits away from me and my family that I have been working a lifetime to earn.

Please look at other ways to balance the budget. Raising the excise tax would be a fairer way to address the State's revenue short fall. Everyone paying a little more will mean sharing the burden equally during these difficult times.

Thank you and Aloha,

Walter L Hager.

## yamashita1- Kathy

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**From:** FWong2@dhs.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:28 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** I am opposed to these bills

I am opposed to the bills being proposed:

- 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 feel that these bills are prejudice and are a prelude to discrimination. These bills target only state and public employees who pay the same taxes and are subject to the same bills as the rest of the public. By limiting benefits the costs to pay for medical needs would become unbearable for many and lead to more individuals being placed on the strained welfare system.

Instead I believe that the State of Hawaii needs to look into innovative ways to generate revenues in order to improve our states economy. By taxing already strained households the problem will only get worse.

Due to Hawaii's centralized location, Hawaii should be the hub of incoming and outgoing technologies and trends. We should welcome business from foreign countries and maintain the money making events that help to boost Hawaii's economy and provide jobs for residence such as the Pro Bowl and Professional Surfing.

Another way to improve our economy in the long term would be to invest in our students that are in school now. Instead of eliminating programs, as has been the case, schools should be in the process of being repaired and improved and study materials updated to reflect current events and global conditions.

I do not think that it would have been possible for Brian Clay or Clay Stanley to win Olympic Gold Medals if, at the time that they attended school, sports activities were a program that was cut from their curriculum.

In summary it is my point of view that by implementing these bills that the state worker will be singled out and subject to unfair penalties that other employees (Tax payers) will not be subject to. Also the State Government needs to look into other means of generating income for the State. Lastly programs such as education should not be penalized for governments lack of foresight and inability to plan for the future.

Thank you,

Frederick M. Wong  
Eligibility Worker  
Kuakini Unit / 174  
BESSD / DHS  
(808)832-3809

## yamashita1- Kathy

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**From:** Shawn Fonseca [coachfonz@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:39 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Against HB's 1106, 1718, 1719, 1725, 1723, 1726, 1727

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Shawn G. Fonseca. As a public employee for 28 years, I am deeply sadden and upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1106, 1718, 1719, 1725, 1726, 1723 and 1727.

My reasons for working as a public servant 28 years ago was to give back to the community and State that me and my generations of family have been apart of all our lives. I have forgone working in the private sector and making more salary because of the promise of benefits that could help me and my family in our later years of life. Now these promises are about to be broken and my commitment to public service could be a financial burden and disruptive to my family's future.

The HB Bills I mentioned above is an attempt to break promises made to public workers who have made sacrifices in their lives to serve their communities. To try to balance the budget on the backs of State workers will do more harm to the communities who depend on quality workers to continue the various services that are more needed in this time of an unstable economy.

Please protect the rights of public employees who have given their lives to the betterment of the State of Hawaii.

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

**Mahalo, Shawn Fonseca**

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**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** rkoa@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:40 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Please Vote "NO"

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

Thank you for the work that you do for our community and for our State. At times it may feel like a thankless job but I'm glad that you take on the challenges of making hard decisions for us especially during this harsh economic time.

As a State employee, I'm voicing my opposition to the proposed bills that are on the table concerning cuts to State employee benefits. As you know our stability come from our benefits package. Cutting any portion of it will negatively impact us and our families. We are already in service to the community and we rely on that stability to see through tough economic times such now. Please remain protective of our benefits and vote **"NO"** to the following bills:

- HB1536 - Freezing salaries of Governor, Lt Governor
- 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

Once again mahalo for the work that you do and I hope that I am heard.

Aloha,

Roland Lee  
Concerned Citizen and State Employee

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## yamashita1- Kathy

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**From:** cnicolas@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:17 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for Bills

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

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Cory Nicolas, as a public employee of 4 years, I am deeply upset about the bills that are targeting public employees.

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

As a resident of our State (and a registered voter), I am upset at the legislature for attempting to solve our State Budget by punishing the people that execute the work for them. It is an insult that they are targeting our salaries and benefits after the legislature just received a 36% raise. \$48,708... that's more than I make a year and I work year round. \$10,200 expense account... I don't even have one of those. Our economy is in turmoil, yet the people who are suppose to protect our assets... Increase their own and attempt to balance it out by decreasing benefits and salaries from the people they are suppose to serve.

I have a family to support, we barely make it with my salaries and benefits. It's always a thought in our heads when we see the homeless that we, ourselves are always one paycheck away from being camped next to them.

The Legislature forgets that they are our Public Leaders and should LEAD by EXAMPLE. I would like to see them cut their salaries first, before they ask to cut ours.

Please serve the public the way you were meant to and vote no on these bills.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** rhoads3-Christine on behalf of Rep. Karl Rhoads  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:12 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: Labor & Public Employment Committee Hearing February 13, 2009 and February 17, 2009

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**From:** Cheryl Rapoza [mailto:mango808@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 8:16 PM  
**To:** Rep. Karl Rhoads  
**Cc:** Rep. Karen Awana; Rep. Faye Hanohano; Rep. Marilyn Lee; Rep. Roy Takumi  
**Subject:** Labor & Public Employment Committee Hearing February 13, 2009 and February 17, 2009

**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  
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.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Jade M Lum [jadelum@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:12 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Testimony re: HB 1106, HB1718, HB 1719, HB 1725, HB 1723, HB 1715, HB 1726, HB 1727

Hi, my name is Jade Lum and I work for the State of Hawai'i Judiciary.

I am a tax payer who spends money at local businesses everyday to buy grocery, clothing and other needs.

It is not fair for the House to be looking at ways to balance the budget by taking away the retirement and health benefits from public employees. I work hard at my job and things are even harder now because vacancies have been frozen and there has been an increase in demands for services.

I have made a career in public service knowing that the pay may not be as good as in the private sector but I could rely on the retirement and health benefits for myself and my family.

It is wrong for representatives to take these benefits away from me.

Please look at alternative ways to balance the budget. For example, raising the excise tax would be a fairer method to address the state's revenue problem. Everyone paying a little more will mean sharing the burden during these tough economic times.

Thank you,

Jade Lum

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** rhoads3-Christine on behalf of Rep. Karl Rhoads  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:08 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: Requesting your help

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**From:** Kimberley Haines [mailto:kimberleyhaines12@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 7:00 PM  
**To:** Rep. Karl Rhoads  
**Subject:** Requesting your help

Dear Mr. Rhoads,

My name is Kimberley Haines. I am a library technician at the University of Hawaii and am a member of HGEA. Though I do not live in your district, I am very concerned about a number of bills before your committee that seek to take away benefits from public workers like me. I love my job and the community I work with. My salary may not be as good as those in the private sector or equivalent to similar positions on the U.S mainland, but I can rely on important health and retirement benefits. I do not want these benefits to be taken away from me, therefore I urge you to vote "no" on the following bills:

HB 1106, HB 1715, HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1723, HB 1725, HB 1726, HB 1727

Thank you,

Kimberley Haines

February 12, 2009

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Janelle Garcia. As a public employee for 15 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: **HB 1718, HB 1723, HB 1725, HB 1726 & HB 1727**

**Relating to HB 1718:**

I am against halting reimbursement for Medicare Part B premiums for employees retiring after 12/31/09 because I look forward to receiving what I'm entitled to after the years of service as a public employee. By removing a benefit such as this, would greatly affect me as a future retiree. I don't know what the future will bring but by taking away benefits I work hard for does not make me feel good as a public employee.

**Relating to HB 1723:**

I am against limiting employer contribution to 55% and making it non-negotiable because times are definitely harder and by adding 5% to my contribution would affect me and my family in many ways such as buying food, putting gas to get to work, etc.

**Relating to HB 1725:**

I am against halting prescription drug coverage under EUTF for the following reasons:

- The cost of drugs are not affordable, oftentimes I have difficulty paying my co-pay.
- I am a one-income family since my husband's lay-off last October.
- I am afraid that I will not be able to pay for the necessary prescriptions for my family should this bill go through because I can't afford it.
- I chose to work for the County of Hawaii because of the benefits (medical, dental, drug, and vision) and by taking away even one of these benefits; it would hurt me as a public employee.

**Relating to HB 1726:**

I am against curtailing EUTF payment for life benefits because it's a benefit we should be entitled to. I can't afford my own life insurance so what little I have through being a public employee definitely benefits me.

**Relating to HB 1727:**

I am against prohibiting provision of dental and vision coverage for the following reasons:

- The cost of dental and vision is very expensive, even the co-pay is not affordable.
- I am a one-income family since my husband's lay-off last October.
- I am afraid I will not be able to pay for the dental work that may be needed later or vision problems that may come later for my family because I won't be able to afford it.
- I chose to work for the County of Hawaii because of the benefits (medical, dental, drug & vision) and by changing or removing even one of these benefits, would drastically affect my and my family's life.

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

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** Conchita\_Mendoza/MAUNAWILI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 9:16 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Fw: Health care benefits and retirement  
**Attachments:** ecblank.gif

----- Forwarded by Conchita Mendoza/MAUNAWILI/HIDOE on 02/13/2009 09:13 AM -----

**Conchita**  
**Mendoza/MAUNAWILI/HIDOE**      To [LABtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:LABtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

02/13/2009 09:01 AM      cc

Subject Health care benefits and retirement

How can you take something away lilke that. I finally got a position working for the State and now your just going to take everything away that I was hoping to have when it is time for me to retire. It is not fair to punish the working people to fix your problems. We already took a big budget cut and I don't even have a high paying position to even afford your medical now. How are we as a people in this hard times supposed to deal with living on a small income and than get slammed that your taking more benefits away from us. You need to look somewhere else and not at us. These are for HB 1718,1719,1725,1723,1715,1726 and 1727

Mahalo for you time,  
A struggling parent

## yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** Bobette Aoyagi [baoyagi@hhsc.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 9:32 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** House bills opposition

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

Thank You for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Bobette W. Aoyagi. As a public employee for 30 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically HB1719; HB1725; HB1723 and HB1727.

HB1719 is a concern to me. As a civil servant, I chose to work for less pay to be able to contribute to the community, less pay but compensation with certain benefits. On balance, I believed that I was able to count on a safe retirement. Speaker Say's bill, which clearly 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. Was my 30 years of devotion to the public not compensated? I feel like I'm being tossed aside with no respect like an old rag. I only need one more year of service to make the current criteria for retirement. I have been looking forward to my retirement, only to be just within reach and then have it yanked away from me. This is not fair play at all. Am I being forced into taking a penalty of benefits to retire before this comes into law. Do I play roulette and ride it out hoping it doesn't pass and be able to collect my full benefits. I would gladly retire now if not for the penalty. This is exposing me to a big dilemma. Stress is what I get for 30 years of faithful service?

The loss of institutional knowledge and expertise that we could experience by forcing early retirement, is putting our families in Hawaii at risk. State programs that protect Hawaii'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 HB1719 and to send a strong message to Speaker Say, that he cannot punish civil servants for their dedication and commitment to the State of Hawaii.

HB1725 states that from July 01, 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. Do you know how much chemotherapy drugs cost? The reality is now hitting home for me. If it wasn't for my drug coverage it would be highly probable that we would be one of the homeless statistics. We would be just another burden on the State rather than a contributor to the public. I had faith that this system would take care of me after I put in my time as a public servant. Can your conscience pass this bill knowing you would be indirectly responsible for my family members life or death. This is a regressive bill when the rest of the nation is talking about improvements to our health care coverage.

HB1723 and HB1727 both will reduce health benefits to us the public employees. HB1723 wants to reduce the employer, State of Hawaii, contribution to 55% from the current 60% of the monthly premiums, this is not too bad but if we give in now will this set the precedent for future cuts?

As for HB1727, what about our vision and dental health? What is the employer offering to its servants for loyal service to them. Is it only a one-sided relationship? Working as a public servant has no rewards?

Please see this entire picture from all points of views. It sounds good for Speaker Say to propose cuts in these economic times. But don't forget this is affecting personal lives. Medical Insurance coverage is already a failing issue. There must be different ways to remedy this problem instead of curtailing the public servants rights. Don't penalize us because we're the easiest targets as we work for the government and gives the impression to the rest of the state that the government is doing something for the rest of the peoples benefits. Please considering the human factor. WE are humans with lives and families too, that will be greatly affected. These measures that cut our benefits will eventually trickle down and effect the rest of the public.

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

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 9:39 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** steuer@lava.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1725

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Carolyn Steuer  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 122 Plum St. Wahiawa, HI 96786  
Phone: 808-622-1062  
E-mail: [steuer@lava.net](mailto:steuer@lava.net)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

**Comments:**

I am a teacher in the DOE. I do not think it is fair to take away drug coverage to employees and retirees. These was a benefit promised when I signed a contract to work for the State and was promised this benefit upon qualifying for retirement. I am too old to look for other work (age 69 and still working for the DOE), but was counting on this benefit as part of work and retirement. It seems like the State is going back on their own promises.

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Miriam Koki [miriamkoki@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 9:19 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\*

February 13, 2009

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

Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony. My name is Miriam Koki and I am an education assistant. I have been employed with the state at S. W. King Intermediate School for almost 24 years in which two of them were emergency hire years.

I am extremely troubled with the bills Speaker Calvin Say introduced:

- **HB 1719** – This bill disregards my years of service and reduces medical benefits until the Medicare retirement age but allows me to retain health coverage by paying the respective state share of premiums until medicare retirement age. This bill disgusts me as it shows that you do not care or respect the state and county workers whom many have put in so many years of service.
- **HB 1725** – This is another bill that is extremely disturbing. How can you prohibit health benefits of the employer-union from providing drug coverage to employees and allow trustees to make prescription drug benefits available through drug coverage plans that are paid in its entirety by employees-beneficiaries?
- **HB 1727** – Prohibits the health benefits of the employer-union health benefits trust fund from providing dental and vision coverage for approximately 6 years. To allow the board of trustees to make these benefits available but at no cost to the employer? Putting in so many years of service and this is how you treat the state workers?

I am opposed to all the bills introduced and these are just a few of them I listed. I say if you're going to make cuts, start from the top and don't just pick on the state and county workers! Thank you for your time.

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Pacheco, Kason [kpacheco@co.hawaii.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:34 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Kason Pacheco. I am upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: All of the below

HB1536 - Freezing salaries of Governor, Lt Governor

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.

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 would like the State not to make a decision on emotions of fear. I feel the state is reacting and not thoroughly thinking through all of the options the state has. Hawaii is a unique place to live and we should keep it that way and not follow other states on what has already been implemented in those states. I strongly feel the State has not exhausted all of these options and is jumping to a conclusion on emotion and finding the easiest way out of the problem which will result in causing more problems for the economy.

I would like to propose some options that I feel the state should do some changes in:

- 1) Increasing fines for illegal buildings with out building permits and increasing fines to homeowners and contractors for not having a building permit when constructing. With the increase in the housing market value these fines should have been increased as the economy increased.
- 2) ENFORCING the building permit on construction sites. I have worked in other states and I am totally shocked on how this state is really relaxed in issuing building permits and enforcing home owners and the fines associated. It is amazing to me, how easily people get away with not have the right permit and not having a permit; ex. Illegal structure in Kalihi. The state should increase all fee's and fines, they are too inexpensive and only a slap on the wrist to individuals who do not follow the law. Mainland builders that relocated to Hawaii are laughing on the way to the bank on how easy they can get away with things in Hawai'i.
- 3) Installing red light traffic cameras at intersections in Hawaii Kai and downtown Honolulu. Fines should be minimum \$200 per incident, not these Mickey Mouse fines.
- 4) As tourism increased the State should have increased the hotel tax charged. However since this was not completed we now do not have that extra money from an increase therefore we now have to take money from other places for not paying attention on what could have been capitalized on during the rise in tourism.

I appreciate your time in reading my testimony.

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 9:04 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** hcravalho@honolulu.gov  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1725

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Harmon Cravalho  
Organization: Kapaa Maintance Facility  
Address: Kapaa Quarry Road Kailua, Hi. 96734  
Phone: (808) 266-7601  
E-mail: [hcravalho@honolulu.gov](mailto:hcravalho@honolulu.gov)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

**Comments:**

We the following employees of Kapa'a Maint. Facility C&C of Honolulu oppose this bill, for the following reason:

Without this benefit the cost of prescription drugs are outrageous and realistically unaffordable this would cause a financial burden on all of our families this would determine weather to buy groceries vs. medicines

Harmon Cravalho, Walter Takahashi, Glenn Fujikawa, Clifton Won, Brandon Ogawa, Dayne Terlep, Don Raquel, Gordon Schilling, and Angel Santiago

Chairman Representative Rhoads:

I am not in support to the following bills.

HB1718

HB1719

HB1723

HB1725

HB1727

I am a widow, a retiree (6/2008) and have a medical condition (diabetes) which requires doctor visits and drugs. The skyrocketing cost of drugs and medical care will always be a consistent burden for me without the medical benefits provided.

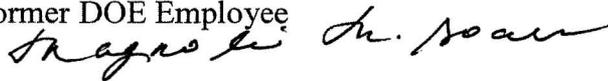
There are other widows like me both retired and currently employed who are facing this crisis with anger that our legislature /administration would do this to dedicated employees and fear of the unknown.

Please reconsider your decision to support these bills.

Respectfully submitted:

Magnolia Soares

Former DOE Employee

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Magnolia M. Soares".

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** rhoads3-Christine on behalf of Rep. Karl Rhoads  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:54 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: Bills affecting state workers

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**From:** Dzung Thai [mailto:dtthai@ymail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:27 PM  
**To:** Rep. Karl Rhoads  
**Subject:** Bills affecting state workers

Dear Representative Rhoads:

I am writing to express my outrage and disappointment in regards to the following House bills that would affect state worker salaries, benefits and retirement: HB 1106, HB1108, HB1715, HB1718, HB1719, HB1720, HB1721, HB1722, HB1723, HB1725, and HB1727.

These bills would place an unfair burden on the backs of state workers. There are many of us state workers, and we provide invaluable experience and service to the public. For all the important work that we do, we depend on the state's benefits because we are not compensated at the rate of those working in the private sector. By decreasing our already low salaries through furloughs, limiting employer contributions to health care benefits, and expecting us to pay for our own prescription drug coverage, dental and vision plan, many of us will not be able to make ends meet and to support our families.

Many of my coworkers close to retirement are planning on retiring early after hearing about these proposed changes to their benefits. This will place more of a burden on the staff who are left behind, who are already stretched to the limit due to the current hiring freeze. I work at the Health Department - Tuberculosis Branch. Contrary to popular opinion, in general my co-workers are dedicated, hardworking and do care about the clients we serve. Our branch provides an important public health service to the community, preventing and controlling the spread of tuberculosis. There could be disastrous consequences to the health of the public if we are expected to do more with even less staff and resources.

I am extremely disappointed in the state legislators who proposed and support these bills; I thought that they were supposed to keep the health and welfare of their constituents in mind. They need to remember that the people of Hawaii gave them this important job -- to serve them well by keeping them in mind when making important decisions such as this.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Dzung Thai

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Sydney S. [sydnature@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:43 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** I Opposed!

To the Labor and Public Employment Committee:

I am emailing my opposition to the following bills:

- \*HB1106 – 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
- \*HB1723 – Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable;
- \*HB1715 – Increase, for new employees, the age and service time requirement to retire;
- \*HB1726 – Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits;
- \*HB1727 – Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage.

I am an exempt state worker at the Adult Mental Health Dept. As a state worker, I do not agree with the proposed bills. Think of the people who has been working for the state for so long and given their life long service just to find out it will not assist them when they are old and grey. It is like a stab in the back. Of course people want to be compensated and not left in the dark. If you pass these bills, imagine what image you are putting the state into. Before I thought, "Wow! I'm sure it is great to work for the state because they take care of their workers. They have good benefits and you know you are helping many people." Now, with these proposed bills, what will the state workers look forward to in the future? Nothing. It is like workers would be working to pay off their own medical bills? Working for the state sounds like they are working for the worst "employer" ever and it is looking like a slave driver. What happened to providing quality care and benefits? You are just eliminating it because you think it is not worth it to provide them the workers share after all the hard work they did for the state? Don't treat the workers like pawns. The state should reconsider about proposing these bills that could end the connection between the workers and the state in servicing the community.

I am definitely against the bills mentioned above. Why is it that the state is targeting the people supporting the state? How about the people that earn so much are not getting punished? Why are we getting these punishment? Yes, it is a punishment! Why work hard now when in the end there is nothing for the state workers? Do you see what I mean? This is over the top so unfair for the people who work for the state. You would think the state will take care of you...you would think! Then the state just pulls the rug right off of you leaving you helpless.

How about the lawmakers that is supposed to be helping us? Some want to bail out our economy by getting rid of the hard earned benefits from the public employees. What is wrong with this picture? They think by doing that that it will solve all the economic crisis? A portion? I do not think so. They are quick to thinking that taking away benefits from the little people that they are just going to take it? They got us all wrong. Why don't we start with their salaries? Just because these lawmakers who approved these idiotic of an idea does not mean they will solve the Hawaii economic problem. Have they thought of the consequences that this could bring to the public workers? No. You know why? Because it shows that these bill makers who come up with these stupid ideas does not bother them nor even care. It is simple...it is NOT happening to them! It is easy for them to do this because they are not going to experience this devastating benefit crisis. They are living the life!

To the Labor and Public Employment Committee, I hope that you can assist us in stopping these heinous disregard for the state workers. We are here to work, to help, and if all is loss esp. the state who I work for, The Dept. of Health, AMHD, cannot even save my co-workers and co-public workers from receiving health insurance then why do we even bother having Dept. of Health? Isn't it not ironic that I work for the Dept. of

Health but my own health benefit cannot be re-assured or be taken cared of? I am totally appalled by these bills. Shame on them, tsk, tsk, tsk! I hope they realize that what goes around...comes around!

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Sincerely,  
Sydney Solano  
DOH, AMHD  
UM Specialist

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**From:** rhoads3-Christine on behalf of Rep. Karl Rhoads  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:37 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW:

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**From:** Terry Proctor [mailto:docproc@usa.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:26 PM  
**To:** Rep. Karl Rhoads  
**Subject:**

February 12, 2009

Honorable Karl Rhoads

My name is Terry Proctor I am the Principal of Wilcox elementary School on Kauai. I have been with the Department of Education for over 20 years now and I feel the need to urge you to vote against HB's 1718,1719,1725, and 1727. It is unfair to balance the State's budget on the back of the state employees. If these bills are passed we are likely to see a very large number of educators retire before Dec 31. We already are having a hard time filling our positions with qualified workers and a mass exodus would truly put our education system in a perilous situation. Recent predictions show that a large percentage of teachers and administrators are going to retire in the next five years and the DOE will certainly not be able to cope with that scenario. If these bills pass then the retirement timeline will be accelerated and compressed into 6 months. I firmly believe that our struggling school system will collapse under such a burden.

It is also unfair to make a promise that we will have funded healthcare and retirement benefits after serving for 30, or 40 or more years and then take it away. Many of us have worked diligently (for not a lot of money) for our entire careers with the goal of reaching retirement and to have our benefits removed is a terrible way to treat our valuable human resources.

On behalf of all of our hard working state employees especially educators please vote no on HB's 1718,1719,1725, and 1727.

Terry E. Proctor  
Principal  
Wilcox Elementary School

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## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Joy\_Hohnstine/KAUH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:23 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** I Oppose Bills HB1723 and HB1719; also HB1725 and HB1727

To whom it may concern,

I strongly oppose bills HB1723 and HB1719; also HB1725 and HB1727. I am a current DOE employee. As part of my education prior to entering the education field I obtained two master's degrees, which have proved immensely helpful in my current work serving the students of Hawai'i. However, those degrees came at a cost, despite paid internship positions at my university I needed to take out student loans to pay for my education. Though I value the expertise given me through these educational experiences, I now find that I am just making ends meet and am living paycheck to paycheck to pay these and other bills. Having to provide for my own health care would cause an extreme financial hardship for me at this time.

I urge and ask you to oppose the passing of these bills.

Thank you for your time and support,  
Joy Hohnstine

**From:** Diane Galich [dgalich@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:29 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** I oppose!

I am writing in opposition of the following proposed bills: HB 1106, HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1725, HB 1723, HB 1715, HB 1726, HB 1727.

As a state employee, I am in opposition of the proposed bills that will significantly decrease employee salaries and leave many employees without medication, vision and dental coverage. I am appalled that the legislation would also propose that employees retiring after 12/31/09 would lose their hard-earned health benefits after retirement.

I have been employed with the state for 6 years. I have dedicated myself to serving the state mostly due to the benefits that comes with being a state employee. I believe that state employees work hard and deserve our existing financial, health, vacation and retirement benefits. If the above legislative bills are passed, we would be left with significantly less money to pay for our expensive full-priced prescription drugs; we would not be motivated to extend our employment, because there would be no rewards or medical benefits in our retirement years; we would not have the peace of mind that our work is valued, as more changes could come to shake us from our already unstable foundations.

As an employee with the Department of Health, I find it hypocritical that the state would cause the health of its own employees to drastically deteriorate because of all these changes. How many employees will have to go without medical care or medications when these bills are passed? The resulting health of the state employees and retirees could be drastic: sickness, depression, and even death.

How can the lawmakers expect us, state employees, to serve the people of Hawaii if we can't even help ourselves? DO NOT pass these bills! The state will lose valuable and hard-working employees; what's the point of having a state job when there are no benefits?

Diane Galich  
State of Hawaii  
Department of Health

**From:** Calkins, Donna M. [Donna.Calkins@doh.hawaii.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:16 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** testimony regarding bills pertaining to public employees

I would like to testify regarding the following bills, which I am opposed to:

HB1106  
HB1718  
HB1719  
HB1725  
HB1723  
HB1727

I have been a state employee for nearly eight years. What is being proposed would cause extreme hardship for me as a 61 year old single female who trying to make ends meet and plan for my eventual retirement.

If temporarily furloughing employees is what is necessary to get us through these difficult times, then I would be willing to do my part and could manage one day per month, but the rest of what is being purposed for current employees would cause me to return employment in the public sector.

Please consider that there are many of us in similar situations and this would undoubtedly cause a mass exodus of public employees.

I could agree to the purposed changes for new employees such as HB 1715. In fact all the bills being purposed could be re-written to apply to new employees and I would support that.

I truly could not survive as a public employee if the above bills are passed.

Thank you for weighing the concerns of those who have served the public these many years. I ask only that our service be valued as we all face these difficult times.

Sincerely,  
Donna Calkins

**From:** Aguilar, June [June.Aguilar@doh.hawaii.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 7:52 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1718,HB1719, HB 1725, HB 1723, HB 1714, HB 1726, HB 1726, HB 1727

I am a Registered Nurse who has worked for the Department of Health for almost 8 years. I had many employment opportunities in the community. The reason that I took a job with the state was due to the benefits, especially the retirement benefits. I would have been able to receive a higher salary in a position in the community. I urge you not to cut the employee benefits further. They have been ravaged enough in current years.

June Aguilar

## Bobette Aoyagi

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To: LABtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov.  
Subject: House bills opposition

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

Thank You for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Bobette W. Aoyagi. As a public employee for 30 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically HB1719, HB1725, HB1723 and HB1727.

HB1719 is a concern to me. As a civil servant, I chose to work for less pay to be able to contribute to the community, less pay but compensation with certain benefits. On balance, I believed that I was able to count on a safe retirement. Speaker Say's bill, which clearly 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. Was my 30 years of devotion to the public not compensated? I feel like I'm being tossed aside with no respect like an old rag. I only need one more year of service to make the current criteria for retirement. I have been looking forward to my retirement, only to be just within reach and then have it yanked away from me. This is not fair play at all. Am I being forced into taking a penalty of benefits to retire before this comes into law. Do I play roulette and ride it out hoping it doesn't pass and be able to collect my full benefits. I would gladly retire now if not for the penalty. This is exposing me to a big dilemma. Stress is what I get for 30 years of faithful service? The loss of institutional knowledge and expertise that we could experience by forcing early retirement, is putting our families in Hawaii at risk. State programs that protect Hawaii'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 HB1719 and to send a strong message to Speaker Say, that he cannot punish civil servants for their dedication and commitment to the State of Hawaii.

HB1725 states that from July 01, 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. Do you know how much chemotherapy drugs cost? The reality is now hitting home for me. If it wasn't for my drug coverage it would be highly probable that we would be one of the homeless statistics. We would be just another burden on the State rather than a contributor to the public. I had faith that this system would take care of me after I put in my time as a public servant. Can your conscious pass this bill knowing you would be indirectly responsible for my family members life or death. This is a regressive bill when the rest of the nation is talking about improvements to our health care coverage.

HB1723 and HB1727 both will reduce health benefits to us the public employees. HB1723 wants to reduce the employer, State of Hawaii, contribution to 55% from the current 60% of the monthly premiums, this is not too bad but if we give in now will this set the precedent for future cuts? As for HB1727, what about our vision and dental health? What is the employer offering to its servants for loyal service to them. Is it only a one-sided relationship? Working as a public servant has no rewards?

Please see this entire picture from all points of views. It sounds good for Speaker Say to propose cuts in these economic times. But don't forget this is affecting personal lives. Medical Insurance coverage is already a failing issue. There must be different ways to remedy this problem instead of curtailing the public servants rights. Don't penalize us because we're the easiest targets as we work for the government and gives the impression to the rest of the state that the government is doing something for the rest of the peoples benefits. Please considering the human factor. WE are humans with lives and families too, that will be greatly affected. These measures that cut our benefits will eventually trickle down and effect the rest of the public.

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

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Crockett, Judy G. [Judy.Crockett@doh.hawaii.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 7:39 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** House Bills on Health and Retirement Benefits

Labor and Public Employment Committee,

Since I received the notice on hearings of health and retirement benefits this morning, I was not able to time off from work to attend the hearings. However, I am taking time in my morning break to indicate my opposition to HBs (in order of priority), 1719 1727, 1725, 1723. Although I have had 25 plus years of service, my retirement plans were based on affordability and were targeted for December 30, 2010. Elimination of employer contributions for health plans, drug, dental and medical benefits would force me to retire prior to July 1, 2009.

Please consider employee furloughing or salary decreases up to 5% rather than elimination of health benefits.

Thank you for your consideration of employee needs.

Judith Crockett

Judith Crockett, M.A.  
Planner, Adult Mental Health Division  
State of Hawaii, Department of Health  
2385 Waimano Home Road  
Building Four, # 3  
Pearl City, HI 96782

Telephone: (808) 453-6945

Fascimile: (808) 453-6995

e-mail: [judy.crockett@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:judy.crockett@doh.hawaii.gov)

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Wayne Tsukazaki [wjt@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 6:42 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** re: opposition to proposed bills by calvin say

My name is Wayne Tsukazaki and I am a state employee at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Records Office. As much as I'd like to be attending this meeting, I am unable to do so, so here is my statement: I am nowhere near retirement, however I'd like to voice my opinion that I am strongly opposed to bills # HB 1106, HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1725, HB 1723, HB 1715, HB 1726, and HB 1727. I realize this email may not pack as much punch as a physical presence, but let it be known that I do care very much about the impact of this issue.

Sincerely,

Wayne Tsukazaki, Office Asst III

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Kim\_Otani/WAILUKU/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 7:10 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1718, 1719, 1725, 1723, 1715, 1726, 1727

I am writing to convey my disappointment and to reasons why the proposed House Bills regarding medical and health benefits should NOT be passed.

1 - Passage of these bills will increase the shortage of qualified workers, especially in the field of education.

A - Schools are already hard pressed to maintain staff. Staff who are eligible for retirement who would have continued

employment are now making plans to retire to retain the benefits of the current plan.

B - Schools currently rely heavily upon retired teachers to fill much needed positions.

C - If the bills are designed to cut costs to reduce the payroll, then please consider the difficulty that the education community is already dealing with to meet the mandates of NCLB and the Felix Consent Decree.

D - The cost of higher education has frequently made decision to major in education not economically feasible. The love of teaching and concern for the well-being of children is out weighed by the need for employment to support one's own family.

E - Educators are not only teachers, but include the support staff such as educational assistants, clerks, custodial and

cafeteria staff. The cost of the current health plans already takes a large chunk from our paychecks.

2 - There is insufficient notice and time for those affected by these bills to make alternative plans.

A - The passage of these bills may increase poor job performance. Those who would have considered retiring prior to 65 as their physical, emotional, and mental abilities decline, would feel bound to continue to work because they need the health benefits.

B - Is the State also prepared for a possible increase in workman's compensation claims?

C - Is the State making plans to increase alternative health care options such as QUEST?

a - It is already difficult for those on the neighbor islands to qualify for or receive services.

D - Those who have tried to plan for retirement have also been affected by the losses sustained by retirement programs.

3 - Trust in the State legislators and government has been breeched.

A - Schools have been criticized and penalized for holding onto monies for the "rainy" day.

Now that there is a shortfall, there appears to be no preparation for the situation and State employees feel victimized.

Please vote NO.

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** rick & judy armsby [rjarmsby@hawaiiintel.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 6:35 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Don't take away my health benefits

Dear Representatives of the House Labor and Employee Committee,

I have worked faithfully for the State for 40 years as a psychologist at the Windward Oahu Community Mental Health Center. I love my job and do not want to retire but I may quit if I have to in order to possibly preserve what I can salvage if you pass some of the bills Calvin Say has introduced. These bills will decimate the health coverage my wife and I have counted on receiving both now and after I do retire. I understand that HB1719 won't affect me since I'm already 67 but HB1725 would halt our prescription drug coverage under EUTF which would dramatically raise our health care costs since both my wife and I take expensive prescribed medications. HB 1727 would abolish our dental and vision coverage which we also need and HB 1718 would halt reimbursement for Medicare B premiums if I continue to work as I now plan past 12/31/09. Please don't force me to retire earlier than I want to. Please don't try to balance the State budget on the backs of the State employees. A fairer approach would be to raise the excise tax for every State citizen.

Mahalo, Rick Armsby Ph.D

47136 Kaimalolo Place  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Connie Balanay. As a public employee for 7 years and a single mother of two, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1106, HB 1719, and HB 1725.

HR 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 are 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 service 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 responsible 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 Hawaii at risk. State programs that protect Hawaii'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 Hawaii.

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,

Connie Balanay

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 6:32 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** Tari\_Miyasato@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1725

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Tari Miyasato  
Organization: Ahuimanu Elementary  
Address: 47-470 Hui Aeko Place Kaneohe, HI  
Phone: (808)239-3125  
E-mail: [Tari Miyasato@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:Tari_Miyasato@notes.k12.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

### Comments:

Regarding HB1725 (From 07/01/09-06/30/15: drug coverage plans will be paid for entirely by employee-beneficiaries.), I am opposed to this bill because it takes away from the employees in the system now and those to come into the system. Hawaii is an expensive place to live and I am proud to be born and raised here. I never had a thought of living anywhere else but Hawaii. Why would the State want to take away drug coverage from employees who have put a lot of years of service/are yet to put in a lot of years of service into this State? Do you think it makes working for the State look more appealing to work for? Do you think that employment rates are going to go up? You may have more people looking to work anywhere else but the State, then what will the State do without employees? The State is already in a bind. People who live here are already struggling to make ends meet. I don't think that making people pay for their drug coverage would help those in the system who already struggle. Many people cannot afford to buy a home and that is why we lose so many good people to the mainland. Many family and friends are separated because they cannot afford to live here. What is the State doing to try to keep our LOCALS here? I have many family and friends that have moved away for this reason. They would much rather stay here, but cannot afford it. Adding one more thing for people to pay, for on their own, is not the answer. I foresee many people looking for other options than to stay here. Tourism will also drop because it will not be the same "ALOHA" State without the LOCALS. Please oppose this bill!

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** waterlogged@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 6:06 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Fwd: HB 1725- RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

> Date: Fri, 13 Feb 2009 15:57:16 +0000  
> From: <waterlogged@hawaii.rr.com>  
> To: EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov  
> Subject: HB 1725- RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
>  
> House Committee on Labor & Public Employment Friday, Feb. 13, 2009  
> Conference Room 309 8:30 a.m.  
>  
> My name is Julie M. Jensen and I am a teacher at Hilo High School and I strongly oppose HB 1725 which prohibits the employer-union health benefits trust fund from providing prescription drug coverage and makes employee-beneficiaries pay the entire amount for drug coverage plans.  
>  
> As you know, drugs and prescriptions are not cheap. By taking away these benefits, you may force current workers and retirees to not take proper care of themselves. The overall cost to the state will rise as health costs will rise, when people may fail to maintain their good health because they can not afford maintenance prescriptions. As a possible result of this, trips to the emergency rooms and hospitals will increase along with the resulting expenses.  
>  
> Don't make faithful and loyal workers have to make choices between food for their families, roofs over their heads, and paying for prescription drug plans.  
>  
> Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**From:** douglas green [doug\_sue2@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 6:20 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Re: Bills HB1723 HB1727 HB1725

I oppose any changes to health care coverage as it exist in the current contract. I am a 2 person family with one income and the payment of health benefits as they are now is hard enough to pay with the rent being so high.

I especially oppose these Bills:

HB1106 Furloughing employees - why: changes the in-service time accrued

HB1725 Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF - why prescriptions are very expensive.

HB1723 Limit employer contribution to 55% .... - why? if medical insurance increases even more then if possible some employees could choose to not have insurance at all or insurance coverage that is not very good and then would rely on hosital emergency rooms for service and not have the ability to pay.

HB1727 Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage - why? I would rather have dental and vision than I would have medical as I don't go to the doctor that much but use vision every year.

Mary S Green  
County employee

**From:** Maxine\_Nagamine/SPED/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 1:45 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Say bills

**SUBJECT: HB 1719, 1725, 1726, 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 Maxine Nagamine and I am an Educational Officer in the Department of Education and I strongly oppose HB 1719 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.

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. I also oppose HBs 1725, 1726 and 1727 which prohibits the health benefits plan from providing drug, life insurance, dental and vision benefits to those who retire after July 1, 2009. To make us shoulder the financial burden with 4 months notice is unacceptable.

Many of us would be willing to accept mandatory furloughs to save money for the state; however, this cessation of benefits is extremely punitive for those of us who have been working all these years for the government. It also would deter many young folks from entering government service.

Maxine Nagamine, PhD  
State Educational Specialist  
Special Education Services Branch  
641 18th Avenue, Building V, Room 102  
Telephone: (808) 733-4832  
FAX: (808) 735-6228  
email: [maxine\\_nagamine@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:maxine_nagamine@notes.k12.hi.us)

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** Mary Beth [kunihirog001@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 5:31 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** kunihirog001@hawaii.rr.com

Mary Beth W. Kunihiro  
98-1424 Onikiniki Way  
Aiea, Hawai'i 96701

February 13, 2008

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Mary Beth W. Kunihiro. As a public employee and a taxpayer of the State of Hawai'i for 29 years and 9 months, I am upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB: 1106, HB 1718, HB1719, HB1725, HB 1723, HB1715, HB1726, HB 1727 and any other HB directed towards taking away or decreasing any of the benefits of State employees.

This would be a violation of many contracts negotiated over the past 30 years – changing our work conditions basically “breaching” our hard negotiated contracts.

The state hiring freezes are overburdening our already overburdened workforce.

I strongly urge the 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.

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

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 4:34 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** jan\_shimoda@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM  
**Attachments:** HB1725.doc

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1725

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Janice Shimoda  
Organization: Ahuimanu Elementary  
Address: 47-470 Hui Aeko Place Kaneohe, HI  
Phone: 239-3125  
E-mail: [jan\\_shimoda@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:jan_shimoda@notes.k12.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

**Comments:**

To:  
COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT  
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino    Rep. Mark M. Nakashima  
Rep. Karen Leinani Awana    Rep. Scott K. Saiki  
Rep. Faye P. Hanohano    Rep. Joseph M. Souki  
Rep. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran    Rep. Roy M. Takumi  
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee    Rep. Kymberly Marcos Pine

Re: HB1725 RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND.

From 07/01/2009 to 06/30/2015: (1) prohibits health benefits plan of the employer-union health benefits trust fund from providing prescription drug coverage; and (2) allows board of trustees to make prescription drug benefits available through drug coverage plans that are paid for entirely by employee-beneficiaries.

Even in tough economic times, I am opposed to this bill because of its unfairness to all employees involved and it will not help the economic status of the state at all. What this bill will encourage is to increase the number in the state of Hawaii to choose between health care or basic necessities as it will have a profound effect on each individual's weekly pay. The precious few dollars the employees make now are already carefully allotted to pay for the many expenses already facing struggling individuals and families alike.

In theory and on paper this bill is presented to save money for the State, the fallout from this bill will cause the State to actually increase its expenses as more and more people who are currently paying into the tax system will end up losing more of their income and causing the state to lose more revenue as well as forcing more people to seek "assistance" in order to survive in the state. The other possibility facing the state is that more and more of the "young" people who make up the work force will LEAVE the state to seek employment elsewhere to make a decent living to survive in the world. This is the beginning of a new "brain drain" and loss of young people who the state depends on for its economy and you will be left

with the "old and older" generations who are already on a limited income and are already walking a tightrope with finances.

If the purpose of this bill is to increase your homeless and welfare assisted group then this is exactly what you need!

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Glenn Park [purple66line@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 1:52 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony HB 1719, HB 1737

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

My name is Glenn F. Park and I live in House District 23, Senate District 12. My employer is the State of Hawaii. I am a Social Worker, my position is located in the

Department of Human Services. I am a taxpayer, a homeowner, and a consumer of good and services.

I've made a career in public service knowing the pay is not as gainful as in private sector, but which affords decent retirement and health benefits.

Now those benefits are being chipped away.

As recent as the past week, I learned of bills which will have an adverse affect on the employee's and her/his family's health.

In a rush to make-up the projected budgetary shortfalls, if the HB 1719 passes, it will have an adverse effect her/his health and well-being. The employee,

although vested, will no longer have health insurance premium paid for the Employer (State of Hawaii). If, I and others like me, choose to retire prior to 06/30/2009, on

fixed income we will be faced with making-up the health premium out-of-pocket in order to continue health coverage 'til we are Medicare eligible.

In the rush to make-up the projected budgetary shortfall, if HB 1737 passes, it will adversely effect her/his ability to afford the health premium, by revising

method of determining the monthly retirement compensation resulting in fixed income of a lower amount.

I am not in support of HB 1719 which proposes to suspend EUTF payments for retirees who retire prior to Medicare retirement age, and HB 1737 which proposes to revise

the method for calculating retirement compensation.

Also, please vote "no" on all of these bills that take away benefits from public employees: HB 1106, HB 1715, HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1723, HB 1725, HB 1726, HB 1727.

Sincerely, Glenn F. Park  
HGEA/BU13

2222 Aloha Drive  
Apt. 901  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815-2807

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 10:18 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** rgandy@honolulu.gov  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1725

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Royden Gandy  
Organization: Kapa'a maintenance facility  
Address: Kapa'a Quarry Rd. Kailua, Hawaii  
Phone: (808)266-7601  
E-mail: [rgandy@honolulu.gov](mailto:rgandy@honolulu.gov)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

### Comments:

We, the following employees of Kapa'a maintenance facility with the city & county of Honolulu oppose to the bill stated above.

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. Although the bill is only temporary, we are gambling with 6yrs of prescription medication. With talks of salary cuts and rises in our premiums, this is like a death sentence for our elderly, sick, or recovering public workers and retirees. The rest of the nation is talking about improving our health care coverage. This is not an improvement.

Royden Gandy, Melita Pedrina, Alvin Yoshimura.

**From:** gmatsushima [gmatsushima@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 10:38 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Urgent Opposition To These Bills

Dear LABtestimony:

Please include by opposition to the following Bills.

There are many dedicated State and County employees working diligently like anyone else in Hawaii. It is inhumane to slash and cut at whim the very benefits that were promised to these workers who have dedicated themselves to decades of years of public service. Many employees do not earn enough to support their families as we are civil servants.

To pull the economic rug from under them is an inhumane, terribly cruel and destructive method to balance the State budget that is not caused by these people either individually or collectively. Many employees are willing to do their part to lessen the economic blow but these Bills are flawed and many employees are angry that we are being targeted as sacrificial lambs.

As shocked as i am that an elected representative would even consider these wide-across-the-board surgical cuts to working people is beyond comprehension.

Stop this madness, please do not approve these Bills that will ruin the lives of these employees and their families.

I do not support these bills and beg that you will not support these bills as well:

HB1536 - Freezing salaries of Governor, Lt Governor

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.

Gregg Matsushima  
HGEA member  
Oahu, Hawaii

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Clara Iwata [clara@hcc.hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 10:31 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB Bills

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Clara Iwata. As a public employee for about 38 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1106, 1718, 1719, 1725, 1723, 1715, 1726 and 1727.

HB106 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 of 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 Hawaii at risk. State programs that protect Hawaii'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 Hawaii.

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, the 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. STATE WORKERS WILL BE ABSENT FROM WORK MORE OFTEN BECAUSE THIS BILL WILL MAKE THEM GIVE UP TAKING THE FULL STRENGTH OF THE MEDICATION PRESCRIBED BY THEIR DOCTOR BECAUSE OF COST.

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

**From:** Alexis Sheldon [slp79akamai@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 10:53 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony

My name is Alexis Sheldon and I am a Speech-Language Pathologist with the Department of Education at Keone'ula Elementary and James Campbell High School in Ewa Beach. I am writing to you because I live in Kaneohe and you represent the district in which I reside.

I want you know and understand that I strongly oppose HB 1719, HB 1721, HB 1722, HB 1723, HB 1725, HB 1726, and HB 1727. There is no justification for what is being proposed here by Mr. Say other than to injure and impair the years of hard work we have put into our jobs. As it stands, we cannot even compete in the general market to lure competent people to our profession because our elected officials feel that teacher's and specialists are not a valued commodity. Now we find that the state legislature is convinced that the recovery of the budget deficit should be the "kuleana" of the hard working and struggling families of Hawaii. As of today, I've learned that a legislator is proposing the "offering" of \$10,000.00 to \$12,000.00 to keep mainland teacher recruits here by supplementing their incomes so that they can afford housing. How sweet....yet again another slap in the faces to those of us who have been raised here and struggle to stay afloat financially as well.

Please reconsider your vote on these bills and look for better options to meet the current deficit needs.

I look forward to a response from your committee if at all possible. I am very interested in just how forthright and responsible you take your vote and actions when so many of Hawaii's families are being impacted by your decision.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Mercy Nakabayashi. As a public employee for 3 ½ years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1106, HB 1718, HB1719, HB 1725, HB1723, HB 1715, HB1726, and 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?

I 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 benefit 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 thinly veiled attempt to force people into early 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 Hawaii at risk. State programs that protect Hawaii'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 Hawaii.

HB 1725 says that from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2015, public employee 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 disease 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. My husband currently has kidney failure and has other medical problems. With this he has to

take 13 medications and has to go to dialysis 3x's a week. This will deter me, 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 I beg of you to vote "no" on all of these bills that take away benefits from public employees.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mercy Nakabayashi

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Bobette Aoyagi [baoyagi@hhsc.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 10:54 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** House Bill Opposition

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

Thank You for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Bobette W. Aoyagi. As a public employee for 30 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically HB1719; HB1725; HB1723 and HB1727.

HB1719 is a concern to me. As a civil servant, I chose to work for less pay to be able to contribute to the community. And less pay but for compensated with certain benefits also. On balance, I believed that I was able to count on a safe retirement. Speaker Say's bill, which clearly 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. What was my 30 years of devotion to this public exactly for? To be tossed aside with no respect like an old rag. For me, especially I only need one more year of service to make the current criteria for retirement. I have been anticipating this time in the recent years, only to be just within reach and then have it yanked away from me. This is not fair play at all. Am I being forced into taking a penalty to retire before this comes into law. Do play roulette and ride it out hoping it doesn't pass and be able to collect my full benefits. I would gladly retire now if not for the penalty in benefits. This is exposing me to a big dilemma, stress is what I get for 30 years of faithful service?

The loss of institutional knowledge and expertise that we could experience by forcing early retirement, is putting our families in Hawaii at risk. State programs that protect Hawaii'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 HB1719 and to send a strong message to Speaker Say, that he cannot punish civil servants for their dedication and commitment to the State of Hawaii.

HB1725 states that from July 01, 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. Do you know how much chemotherapy drugs cost? The reality is now hitting home for me. If it wasn't for my drug coverage I would be one of the homeless now. I would be just another burden on the State rather than a contributor to the public. If I don't have this benefits which I feel I am entitled after 30 years of putting in my time to this institution that I had faith would take care of me, yes I would be one of the homeless statistic and yes this bill is deciding my family members life or death. This is a regressive bill when the rest of the nation is talking about improvements to our health care coverage.

HB1723 and HB 1727 both will reduce health benefits to us the public employees. HB1723 wants to reduce the employer, State of Hawaii, contribution to 55% from the current 60% of the monthly premiums, this is not too bad but if we give in now will this set the precedents for future cuts? As for HB1727, what about our vision and dental health? What is the employer offering to it's servants for loyal service to them. Is it only a one-sided relationship? Working as a public servant has no rewards?

Please see this entire picture from all points of views. It sounds good for Speaker Say to propose cuts in these economic times. But don't forget this is affecting personal lives. Please considering the human factor. WE are humans with lives and families that will be greatly affected. You must also consider in turn the domino affect that will reverberate down to the public if these bills pass.

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

Confidentiality Notice: This email message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure,

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** melmurayama@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 11:19 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Vote "No" on HB 1106, HB 1719, HB 1725

February 13, 2009

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Melina Murayama. As a public employee for almost 2 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1106, 1719, and 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 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. Although I am not near retirement age, I do know many who are. To take away retirement benefits that people have loyally worked so hard for is unfathomable. I can see many people rushing to retire before July 1, 2009, because after working for over a quarter of a century, just to have their medical benefits cut until Medicare retirement age of 65 is not worth the wait. Without the current retirement benefits, why should people consider continuing to work as public employees?

Speaker Say is backing us into a corner, by suggesting that this economic crisis should be resolved by sacrificing the health and well being of my family and I. 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. I chose to work as a civil servant for the State of Hawaii, not because of the pay, but because of the wonderful health and prescription drug benefits. With a medical condition that requires me to be on medication to reduce the risk of stroke, HB 1725 will make my medication unaffordable, therefore increasing my risk of stroke once again. This bill will also cause more people to take sick leave as they will not be able to afford proper medication to keep them healthy and productive. 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 for your time.

Sincerely,  
Melina Murayama  
Education Assistant

**From:** Corrine Largo [clargo1888@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 9:54 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Bill:1725

Star Bulletin Article: "They're still talking" by Christine Donnelly Feb. 2, 1997

Got a question?  
These answers could help you  
By Christine Donnelly  
Star-Bulletin

Q: Pay is a big issue. How much do Hawaii public schoolteachers earn now?  
From about \$25,000 to \$51,000 for a 181-day day work year, depending on academic credentials and years of experience. The average is \$35,952.

Q: How does that compare to the rest of the nation?  
In 1995-96, Hawaii's average teacher salary ranked 20th in the nation, but fell to 51st, last among all states and the District of Columbia, when adjusted for the cost of living, according to a study by the American Federation of Teachers.

Q: How does that compare to the rest of the nation?  
When looking at both days and hours of instruction, Hawaii ranks lowest in the nation, with an average of 1,099 hours of instruction per year, according to the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics.

Q: Besides pay, what benefits will teachers lose while striking.  
If the strike lasts into mid-March, they will lose service credits toward tenure and retirement. Although they'll receive no pay while striking, their health coverage will remain in place.

Posted on: Saturday, March 31, 2007

Teachers' salary ranks 15th

By Robbie Dingeman  
Advertiser Staff Writer

A national survey ranks Hawai'i's average teacher salary at 15th in the country, but local officials say the high cost of living drags that down and isn't enough to prevent a huge turnover.

The American Federation of Teachers, a national teachers union, said the average Hawai'i public school teacher salary for the 2004-05 school year was \$47,833, an increase of 5.2 percent from the previous year.

That's slightly above the national average teacher pay of \$47,602. That is a 2.2 increase from the previous year, the union said, but not enough to cover the cost of inflation.

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association, which represents some 13,000 public school teachers, said Hawai'i needs to find ways to get and keep teachers and reverse a problem with turnover.

"Our new employees are leaving at the end of three years at an alarming rate - 60 percent of our new employees are leaving after the first three years," said HSTA executive director Joan Husted.

"No company can stay in business with that kind of turnover. We have to find a way to keep teachers in teaching," she said.

The Hawai'i ranking was better for beginning teachers – the state ranked eighth in the nation for starting teacher salary, with an average of \$35,816, a 5.5 percent increase over the previous year.

And officials say that increase in beginning teacher salary is important. "We worked at it," Husted said. "You've got to attract people in."

State Senate Education Chairman Norman Sakamoto said the national report shows progress but that more needs to be done to enhance pay, especially to lure beginning teachers.

"I believe it's worth paying our teachers more," Sakamoto said. "I think we'd have more professionals staying in the profession longer."

Sakamoto said state lawmakers are looking at other ways to attract and keep teachers. One proposal that has won support this year would be to give a monetary bonus in hard-to-serve areas. That could mean a \$5,000 bonus to teach at a school struggling with its yearly progress, or in Nanakuli, where a longer drive would eat into one's salary.

Lawmakers also are looking into allowing teachers to get a boost in pay for educational credits that fall short of a degree. For example, a teacher with 20 college credits from another state could be paid more. And that would go up more if the teacher proceeded to get additional credits here.

State Department of Education spokesman Greg Knudsen said he's encouraged to see the national ranking but knows that factoring in Hawai'i's high cost of living usually brings the salaries' buying power down toward the bottom of the list.

He said salary is a key issue when hiring teachers who move to Hawai'i and lack the support that a longer-term resident might have.

"We do feel that it's important to have a high salary for teachers in order to attract the best and the brightest," Knudsen said. "In terms of real spending power, it's still important for us to improve teacher salaries."

Early this month, HSTA president Roger Takabayashi said teachers were given the preliminary schedule of what is being negotiated for 2007-09. He said they were discussing increases that would push to \$45,000 the starting pay for teachers, \$60,000 as the average salary and \$100,000 for most senior teachers.

Husted said the cost of living, especially housing and gasoline, is daunting to beginning teachers.

"It's really an issue of what does your money get you," she said.

"You'll find that we rank in the top 10 in the amount of income we have to put to one side for things like rent or homeowners' cost."

And she said that complaint shows up often in polls taken among departing teachers: "I'm not going to stay here because I can't buy a house; I can't even rent a home."

Reach Robbie Dingeman at [rdingeman@honoluluadvertiser.com](mailto:rdingeman@honoluluadvertiser.com).

• • •

Retirement benefits are the last viable keys to the stability of educational interest. Devalue the state's educational support in Hawaii, then will move to privatization. Private firms are able to sustain highly qualified teachers through competitive salary and benefits.

Is the state of Hawaii taking care of our highly qualified teachers? Are there any left in the state of Hawaii?

The only public confidence is in private schools.

Are we moving to a private school only state?

What happens to the survival of a state when education is not state supported?

Voting for bills 1723, 1719, 1725, & 1727.

Is this voting for privatization?

Eventually, every Hawaii's state sector will be privatized and we won't need public representation.

Housing is already out of reach for many. Tourism is at a low.

Home sales are at a low.

People will come, people will stay if they know that Hawaii HAS THE BEST EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE NATION.

Please do not vote for these bills.

Corrine Largo  
808-487-6633

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Jay L. Serle [ksmui@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:56 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony; LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1106 HB 1719 HB 1725

Jay L. Serle  
PO Box 11063  
Lahaina, HI 96761  
808-385-1574  
[ksmui@yahoo.com](mailto:ksmui@yahoo.com)

Dear Committee

I am writing to oppose HB 1106, HB 1719, and HB 1725. I have worked for State, County, and local government for sixteen years of my life. I currently work as a School Based Behavioral Health Specialist, basically a mental health counselor. My current position pays substantially less than competing jobs in the private sector. By eliminating benefits in the bills above, I would imagine that many state employees would choose to leave for work in the private sector.

The reality is that a majority of state workers do so because they want to make an impact. We do this at what is already a reduced wage. Part of this reduced wage is made up for in benefits. I urge you to fight for me and other state workers as your constituents.

HB 1106 Furloughing employees in this difficult economy would result in less salaries thus less money to be spent to keep the economy healthy. Additionally, The Governor does not have the authority to furlough state employees.

HB 1719 takes away retirement prescription benefits until an employee reaches Medicare age. One of the reasons many state workers work for the state is the stability of medical retirement benefits. This bill takes this negotiated benefit. What about state employees with medical conditions that have paid their service debt? These employees would now be forced to pay the entire bill for their prescriptions. This could amount to fees that are simply unaffordable to the individual. Someone ill would certainly choose health over a house payment. This bill would place the state in a precarious position that could easily result in further economic loss due to reduced personal spending and even more drastic increased home foreclosures.

HB 1725 Places the entire expense prescription drugs on the state employee of from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2015, public employees. Most importantly this bill places the health of hard working state employees at risk. As stated above, the costs could easily far outweigh any proposed benefits of this bill as the result of increased economic strain. It is fact that uninsured individuals cost the government far more money than those insured. Perhaps a better reason for not passing this bill is the fact it is unethical take away a state employees benefits that they have worked hard for and negotiated. By providing these benefits, the state has said we value you as an employee and want you to be healthy. The passage of this bill would negate that.

**I strongly request that you vote "NO" on HB 1106, HB 1719, and HB 1725.**

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. I would appreciate discussing this with you at any time.

Sincerely,

Jay L. Serle, M.A.

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Jay L. Serle

*P.O. Box 11063*

*Lahaina, HI 96761*

*808-385-1574*

**From:** Patrick Patterson [patrickmpatterson96825@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 9:15 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** testing

*To whom it may concern,*

*My name is Patrick M. Patterson, I am an Assistant Professor at Honolulu Community College, and have worked for the State of Hawaii for nearly ten years.*

*My family is heavily invested in the Hawaii economy. The state receives significant income tax, sales tax, and fee income from our living here, along with incidental income from our purchase of needed lifestyle, educational and work-related items. In my own work, I spend a significant amount of my personal salary to essentially subsidize the State by buying educational supplies that I use exclusively in the classroom for the benefit of my students and that the State of Hawaii and the University of Hawaii do not and will not provide. This contributes both to education in Hawaii, and to the creation of productive, high-salary workers who will be a part of state revenue generation in the future.*

*I oppose the following bills, in discussion today, Friday, Feb. 12, 2009:*

*HB1106 Relating to Public Employment*

*HB1718 Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits*

*HB 1719 Relating to Public Employees*

*HB1725 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefit Trust Fund*

I oppose these bills for the following reasons: My health coverage as an employee of Honolulu Community College is the only health benefit that we have to take care of two children and two adults. Although we are currently healthy, without prescription drug benefits, the high cost of a private plan, if one can be found, will have a significant impact on our ability to pay our mortgage, bills, and food expenses. Ultimately, we'll have to cut back on those, thus generating even less revenue for the State. Considering this fact alone, and the fact that the cost of prescription drugs may have the same effect on many other state employees, the plans you are proposing to save costs will end up eating up all savings through loss of State revenue from reduced expenditures.

In addition, if cost of living here becomes too high for us, though we hope to call Hawaii home for the rest of our lives, we may be forced to retrench, move out of the state to a lower cost place with more family support, thus depriving the state of our tax revenue, the educational benefit that comes from my ability to teach students and provide a conduit for them into the workforce, and future citizens in the form of our children.

To remove retirement medical benefits will have similar effects. These plans seem shortsighted, and likely to cost the State more in the future than their passage would save in the short run. Add to that the likelihood of labor unrest in the form of strikes and work slowdowns, which will also cost the State, and which are a real possibility if you assume the likelihood of work fuloughs in this law without bargaining with the Unions, and if you continue to try to reduce benefits and workforce. In all, this will cause the State of Hawaii more problems over the long term, both financially and in terms of getting and keeping an effective educational workforce, and thus the provision of an educated and sophisticated and flexible workforce.

These bills are a clear way, perhaps unintentionally, to sabotage our State economy for the long term in the interest of assuaging a public panic now. Rather than panic, the legislature and the governor should concentrate

on long-term planning. Rather than react always to the crisis of the moment, the legislature and the governor should create long-term priority lists and find ways to make them work without depriving the citizens of Hawaii or the workforce that serves them from basic rights like effective healthcare and the opportunity to imagine a healthy, productive, and educated future.

I want to stay here. But I cannot justify sacrificing the health, safety, and financial security of my family for the sake of a legislative panic. Please think more carefully. It is also true that this issue will have a significant impact upon my voting choices over the period defined - at least through 2015.

Sincerely,  
Patrick M. Patterson

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Akeo, Joshua [Joshua.Akeo@doh.hawaii.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 9:38 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Calvin Say bill

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:  
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Joshua Akeo. As a public employee, I am very upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1106, 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 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? As a nurse, my wage is lower than those in the private sector. I was made promises that are now in jeopardy of being taken away. Many of us agreed to lower salaries due to the benefits that were promised us and now these benefits are in jeopardy. I 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. Let's talk about my contribution to the community. I work at the State Hospital where as many know house some of the most dangerous murderers and criminals in the State of Hawaii. We work to take care of these patients that no one wants or sometimes cannot take care of. Do we want to layoff individuals that keep our community safe? Do we want to risk having dangerous patients escape from the hospital because there are not enough staff to monitor them? 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. It is the medical benefits that many of us stayed employed at the hospital and took lower wages in return. 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. It would be interesting to see how he would feel if he were in our shoes. I am sure he has no worries about paying his mortgage or putting food on the table, but the rest of us do.

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 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.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Varouny M. Sybounmy. As a public employee for 10 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1106, HB 1719, and HB 1725.

HR 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? Reductions in our salaries are 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 service 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 responsible 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 Hawaii at risk. State programs that protect Hawaii'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 Hawaii.

Like many others, I am solely relying on the prescription drug coverage plan for treatment due to my medical condition. Without it, I will no longer be able to afford or be on this life-saving treatment. 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 help save many lives by Voting "**NO**" on all of these bills that take away benefits from public employees. Thank you very much for your help and support.

Jay L. Serle  
PO Box 11063  
Lahaina, HI 96761  
808-385-1574  
ksmui@yahoo.com

Dear

I am writing to oppose HB 1106, HB 1719, and HB 1725. I have worked for State, County, and local government for sixteen years of my life. I currently work as a School Based Behavioral Health Specialist, basically a mental health counselor. My current position pays substantially less than competing jobs in the private sector. By eliminating benefits in the bills above, I would imagine that many state employees would choose to leave for work in the private sector.

The reality is that a majority of state workers do so because they want to make an impact. We do this at what is already a reduced wage. Part of this reduced wage is made up for in benefits. I urge you to fight for me and other state workers as your constituents.

HB 1106 Furloughing employees in this difficult economy would result in less salaries thus less money to be spent to keep the economy healthy. Additionally, The Governor does not have the authority to furlough state employees.

HB 1719 takes away retirement prescription benefits until an employee reaches Medicare age. One of the reasons many state workers work for the state is the stability of medical retirement benefits. This bill takes this negotiated benefit. What about state employees with medical conditions that have paid their service debt? These employees would now be forced to pay the entire bill for their prescriptions. This could amount to fees that are simply unaffordable to the individual. Someone ill would certainly choose health over a house payment. This bill would place the state in a precarious position that could easily result in further economic loss due to reduced personal spending and even more drastic increased home foreclosures.

HB 1725 Places the entire expense prescription drugs on the state employee of from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2015, public employees. Most importantly this bill places the health of hard working state employees at risk. As stated above, the costs could easily far outweigh any proposed benefits of this bill as the result of increased economic strain. It is fact that uninsured individuals cost the government far more money than those insured. Perhaps a better reason for not passing this bill is the fact it is unethical take away a state employees benefits that they have worked hard for and negotiated. By providing these benefits, the state has said we value you as an employee and want you to be healthy. The passage of this bill would negate that.

**I strongly request that you vote "NO" on HB 1106, HB 1719, and HB 1725.**

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** Chien-Wen Tseng [cwtseng@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:41 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** testing  
**Attachments:** cwtseng.vcf

To our representatives,

This is regarding HB 1718, 1719, and 1725. After having read the bills, all I can say is that reducing health benefits for current and retired public employees will have worsen the health of people who have dedicated years of service to our state. That this is being considered with so little public discussion, gives the appearance of passing legislation as quickly as possible to cut costs, with little regards to health consequences on tens of thousands of Hawaii's residents. I urge you to support our state employees by speaking out AGAINST these bills.

Mahalo, Chien-Wen Tseng

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Chien-Wen Tseng, MD MPH

Associate Professor, Dept of Family Medicine and Community Health

Univ. of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine

[www.PrescribingGuide.com](http://www.PrescribingGuide.com)

Investigator

Pacific Health Research Institute

700 Bishop St., Ste. 900

Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: 808-524-4411

Fax: 808-524-5559

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** akoyama1@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:50 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Opposition to HB1106, HB1718, HB1719, HB1725

Dear Hawaii State Representatives:

I'm writing to express my most strong opposition to HB1106 (Relating to Public Employment), HB1718 (Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits), HB1719 (Relating to Public Employees), and HB1725 (Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefit Trust Fund). I understand that Committee on Labor & Public Employment will be holding a hearing tomorrow to consider these bills. I realize that these bills are being proposed in an effort to help meet the current financial challenges facing the State of Hawaii. However, I believe that this is an incorrect way to approach the problem. Governor Linda Lingle in her State of the State speech noted the need for the people of Hawaii to equally share the burden of the projected budget deficits. These bills are antithetical to Governor Lingle's idea because they unfairly target just one segment of the State's population, a segment which has often had to make concessions in the past and always forced to do more with less. It does not make sense to me that they are again being targeted to carry a heavier burden to help resolve a problem, which actually is the responsibility of the entire State. Rather, I believe a more fair way to address the budget shortfall is to enact legislation that calls for equal sacrifice from everyone in the State.

Adele N. Koyama  
A Voting Resident of Hilo

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Francis Wong. As a public employee for 1 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1106, HB 1719, and HB 1725.

HR 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 are 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 service 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 responsible 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 Hawaii at risk. State programs that protect Hawaii'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 Hawaii.

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.

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Troy Ludwick [tludwick@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:34 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Opposition to: HB 1106, HB 1718, HB 1719, and HB 1725

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Troy Ludwick. As a public employee for eight years, I am deeply troubled by some of the bills introduced this session to address the budget shortfalls associated with the current economic downturn. In particular, I am against HB 1106, HB 1718, HB 1719, and HB 1725.

HB 1106 is purportedly intended to 'protect the rights of public employees' in the event of a furlough. However my reading of HB 1106 leads me to conclude that it is instead designed to facilitate furloughs. This wolf in sheep's clothing approach is disingenuous and unbecoming. I would argue that any savings achieved by such furloughs would be more than offset by the detriments brought upon state employees as well as loss of productivity to the state. I ask that you please vote against this misguided attempt to grant authority to the Governor to cause further harm to state workers in these very difficult economic conditions.

HB 1718 and HB 1719 are also of concern. State retirees should not be asked to unduly bear the burden of balancing the state budget. In general they have dedicated much of their lives to public service believing they had a covenant with the state regarding retirement benefits. It would be unconscionable for the state to break this pact and not live up to its responsibilities only after these employees have upheld all of theirs. If the state wishes to implement a system of early retirement to cut costs, it should follow the lead of the private sector and do so by offering the carrot of incentives rather than the stick of punishment. For these reasons I ask that you vote against bills HB 1718 and HB 1719.

HB 1725 seeks to increase state employees' cost of prescription drug costs through June 30, 2015. However one would have to take an extremely pessimistic view to believe that the current economic downturn will not have reversed course by 2015. Of course no one welcomes increases in health care costs. However if such an increase were to be enacted, it should at most be done temporarily -- on a yearly basis -- and rescinded once the economy improves. I ask also that you please vote against this measure.

In summation, I ask that you please consider the following. I chose public service over the private sector because I believe it is nobler to work towards the betterment of all rather than for the profit of a few. I've done so with the understanding that I would earn less than had I chosen the private sector. A primary factor in this decision was that I thought I could count on a fair package of, among other things, retirement and health care benefits. I work diligently, and my duties (being related to information technology) require that there is scarcely a day when I do not perform some amount of public service -- including weekends and holidays. I find the work to be fulfilling and believe that the vast majority of my colleagues have similar motivations and dedication. We ask that in seeking ways to address the state's budget problems that you not unduly burden those of us who have chosen this higher cause. To do so would devalue those of us who choose public service, and it would likely have the result of driving a significant portion of the state's best talent to the private sector.

I thus ask again that you please vote "no" on all of these bills that take away benefits from public employees, and I again thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**From:** Christel Kutzen [ckutzen@ymail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:31 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** I Object! In Favor Of Keeping State Worker Benefits

Good morning Labor and Public Employment Committee,

I oppose the following house bills: HB 1106 Furloughing Employees, HB 1718 Halt reimbursement for Medicare part B premiums for employees retiring after 12/31/09, HB 1719 Stop employer contribution for health benefits for those retiring after 07/01/09, HB 1725 Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF, HB 1723 Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable, HB 1715 Increase, for new employees, the age and service time requirement to retire, HB 1726 Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits, and HB 1727 Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage for reasons that any rational employee would have. I know that most of these benefits are a privilege provided by the employer, but as a civil service state worker, benefits are part of the reasoning as to taking a lower pay rate opposed to working in the private sector. Loyal employees deserve the right to have these benefits, and they should not suffer due to a budget crunch that the US is experiencing. What is happening with all of the money that the new president's stimulus package is providing? This is the real question...I understand that the crunch needs to come from somewhere but without these benefits workers would not be able to provide support to their families, and health issues will become a factor. Also, taking away hours worked and decreasing the amount of income that state workers have is not a good idea with the current situation we are already just scraping by now, and this action will only affect the economy further. In regards to retirement, everyone should have the right to a legitimate retirement as they have worked for over 30 years or so to earn some relaxation in their life. Please don't touch the retirement, seniors will not have much to live on and taking away retirement will hurt them even more. Stop all of these house bills or the state might loose loyal, honest, hardworking employees!!

Sincerely,  
Christel Kutzen

State of Hawaii, Department of Health

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Bonnie Kim [raeya@alohasat.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:39 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725, HB 1719, HB 1718, HB 1106, HB 1536

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Bonnie Kim.

As a public employee for 8 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB1725, HB1719, HB1718, HB1106, HB1536.

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 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.

**From:** Jay U. [jrman\_001@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:22 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY FOR 2/12 & 2/17

Hi, my name is JESSIE T. FERNANDEZ, and I am a member of HGEA. I am 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.

Thank you,

JESSIE T. FERNANDEZ

See bill numbers below

HB1536 - Freezing salaries of Governor, Lt Governor

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

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Mary Santa Maria [mary.santa\_maria@doh.hawaii.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:27 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1719,1725,1106,1718

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

Please accept this letter as my testimony and thank you. As a public employee for 15 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say.

Specifically: 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? I have several co-workers whose spouses have lost their employment.

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?

I 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, **and public health professional I chose to work for less pay** to be able

to contribute to Hawaii. 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. 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 responsible for him to suggest that

this economic crisis should be resolved by sacrificing the health and well being of me, my family, and my coworkers. 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. **The passage of these bills will make our state motto "The Health State" a joke. Please vote "no" on all of these bills that take away benefits from public employees.**

Sincerely,

Mary Santa Maria

Wailuku Maui

**From:** Karen Kagawa [kagawak@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:09 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1536, HB 1718, HB 1719, and HB 1725 / Hearing Date: February 13, 2009, 8:30 a.m.

Re: HB 1536, HB 1718, HB 1719, and HB 1725  
Hearing Date: February 13, 2009, 8:30 a.m.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Karen Kagawa, and I have been a State employee since 1985. I currently work for the Department of Defense, Hawaii Army National Guard. I am single, have a mortgage, and earn a very modest amount. I've hung on through the years with no raises and payroll lags, in hopes of earning decent retirement and health benefits. I am devastated and frightened by the thought that these benefits I have been working for all these years could be taken away.

As a taxpayer, and someone who is already struggling to make ends meet, I ask you to vote "no" on HB 1536, HB 1718, HB 1719, and HB 1725. There are fairer ways to share the burden of addressing this revenue problem we are facing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,  
Karen Kagawa

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Harbold, Mary [mharbold@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:17 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** retirement benefits

**Importance:** Low

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:  
My name is Mary Harbold. As a public employee for over 20 years,  
I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say.  
Specifically: HB 1106, 1719, and 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 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? What will happen to our local economy when there is another sudden reduction of activity due to the reduction of our income and subsequent spending?

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.

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. 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 and could create a significant loss of income for our State.

Thank you and Aloha,  
Mary Harbold  
6231 Keokea Pl  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

## **yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** Jamile, Clinton [cjamil@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 7:47 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1106, HB 1719, HB 1725

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Clinton Jamile. As a public employee for over 13 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1106.

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?

I 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 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 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, 20115, 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.

## **yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** mrmdebb@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:05 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Employee benefits

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

I express gratitude for the opportunity to share my testimony/feelings to you this morning. My name is Deborah Morimoto. I have been a public employee for 31 years, I am troubled, deeply upset by the bills that have been introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically HB 1106, HB 1719 HB1725.

HB 1106 although this bill is being proposed to "protect the rights (my rights) as a public employee" in the event of a furlough. Speaker Say indicates that a furlough would cause the least disruption to the public. Although my voice may be just one person speaking out there are many of us who are struggling to meet the demands of higher cost of living. This is indeed a time of great chaos economically for the State (the nation) as well as the individual citizens of our State. And though it may appear to you as inconsequential, this will affect all of the employees. Many of us have spouses that work for the State. Our ability to meet our financial obligations will be greatly hampered with the loss of income that you propose. How will this help the economy by reducing our pay, perhaps shortening our time to perform our duties, servicing the public? I strongly disagree with this bill to allow the Governor the authority to unilaterally furlough state employees.

HB1719 What will you do when a great wave of employees push to retire before the end of June? Many agencies will lose people who have knowledge and years of service because of this bill. You know I worked for the Judiciary for many years. I came in at the bottom as a clerk typist and the pay was less than what I could make on the outside. One the reasons why I stayed on was because of the promise of a good retirement. Since then I have been divorced and raised my children as a single parent. I have worked hard and I strive to move forward to bring integrity and good work ethic into my department. I am part of the contributory system which allows for years of service and a percentage of my pay. This was I believed a safe retirement plan. So I stayed with it because I knew that as a single parent if I didn't have it taken from my pay check I would have used these funds to pay bills. But I hung on and am now at a point where I can retire. But economically that is not feasible. And to even jeopardize my medical benefits is something that really hits me at a time when I will need the medical. Some of us have health issues that require us to have medical and drug benefits to pay for our prescription (maintenance drugs - diabetes, high blood pressure, etc). Will you throw all of us to the "wolves". Is this bill an attempt to force people into early retirement? I will have to make a choice of whether to leave employment to stay healthy during my retirement or stay even longer to provide for my family and myself through these tough economic times and risk losing my current level of care during my retirement, Why is Speaker Say backing us into a corner. What will the State do if the majority of us leave prior to July 1, 2009. I believe that Speaker Say is gambling with the future of all state programs. Again the loss of knowledge and expertise will be putting all our families in Hawaii at risk. Please vote no to HB 1719 and send a message to Speaker Say that he cannot punish civil servants for their dedication and commitment to the State of Hawaii.

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 bill literally is playing with the life and death of some of our public workers. Although it is temporary, we are gambling with six years of prescription medication. I can envision myself as perhaps some other employees considering whether they can afford to purchase medication for their conditions (diabetes, high blood pressure, etc and other chronic diseases). I ask you what if it were you or your parents who were facing this dilemma? I do not only speak for myself but I speak for others who perhaps may feel they cannot approach you or are unable to voice their opinion or who perhaps feel that their voice will be ignored. Why at this time when our nation is talking about improvements in health care you would move forward to

remove our health care benefits. Please vote no.

I would like to say one more thing. I have enjoyed my employment with the State and I have always felt that if I worked hard enough, did my best to improve service to the public, encourage those I work with to have respect for the State and for the Judiciary--we would be an example to the public of professional, caring individuals. My devotion to and commitment to public service has not changed and will not change. But my ability to feel safe has been removed. I wonder what kind of employees will work for the State when there will be minimal benefits and very low wages. Why at this time does the Legislature feel that the way to reduce costs is to turn to their employees? In 1982 we felt the effects of a recession and I continued to work as a State employee without increases in pay. It was a struggle, now as I near retirement age, the Legislature would like to drastically reduce and perhaps remove my benefits. Why would any of us allow it to happen?

This is my testimony that I leave with you to ponder I hope and not ignore. I speak for myself and for those others who cannot speak for themselves.

---

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**From:** Gunter Schwab [schwab@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 7:28 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** testimony

I strongly oppose the following measures:

HB 1106  
HB 1718  
HB 1719  
HB 1725

**This proposed legislation will do significant harm to UH faculty members in regards to health care and retirement benefits.**

These proposals are being advanced to obtain major concessions from employee unions without the state meeting its obligation to bargain. They fail to recognize the significant impact state and county employees have on our state's economy. The more pressure that is placed on employees to bear all the increased costs of health care, the more likely the state revenue stream will lessen. It is also clear that some employees will be unable to continue to provide health care for their families. Some of the benefit cuts are for six years making it unlikely that benefit coverage provided today can ever be regained.

These bills are an attempt to diminish employee's voices in influencing their conditions of employment. They are punitive in nature doing substantial harm to families and will make it hard to maintain a quality higher education workforce. Faculty will not see UH as a viable career option nor will faculty invest in staying.

Sincerely,

Günter Schwab  
Asst. Professor, Mathematics  
Kapiolani Community College

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Adrienne Valdez [avaldez@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 7:34 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** Kristeen Hanselman  
**Subject:** HB 1106, HB 1718, HB 1719 and HB 1725

To: Committee on Labor and Public Employment  
From: Adrienne Valdez, faculty member at University of Hawaii – West Oahu,  
Re: Hearing on February 13, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.

I respectfully request that you vote no to passing HB 1106, HB 1718, HB 1719 and HB 1725 out of your committee. While I am sure you all have been working very hard to come up with the best ways to deal with the current economic crisis our state is facing, implementing one or more of these bills is the wrong direction to take. All of these bills unfairly target public employees to bear a disproportionately heavy load in dealing with the economic crisis without listening to the ideas they have for finding better solutions. I'm sure we all agree that sacrifices need to be made by everyone in the short term, and I hope you agree that since that is true, that all stakeholders should be fully included in making the decisions that will effect them. Of course, allowing testimony at this hearing is one way of giving stakeholders a voice, but only in a very limited way. All we are able to do is ask you to reject bills that have been placed on the table for consideration. There need to be more substantive discussions than the structure of this hearing will allow.

I know there are better and more fair solutions out there and the best way to arrive at them is through honest, respectful, inclusive and collaborative dialogue at the bargaining table. I am not sure if you are aware of this or not, but all of the public sector unions have been extremely frustrated trying to negotiate new contracts because of the lack of substantive and ongoing dialogue.

Please do the right thing and insist that all parties return to the bargaining table with the goal of jointly finding the best solutions possible. The thousands of dedicated and loyal Hawaii public employees deserve to be heard and their ideas welcomed in exploring and deciding on the best solutions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

--  
Adrienne Valdez, faculty member at UH-West Oahu  
Center for Labor Education and Research  
96-043 Ala Ike  
Pearl City, Hi, 96872

808-454-4781 (Direct)  
808-454-4774 (Main Office)  
808-454-4776 (Fax)  
[avaldez@hawaii.edu](mailto:avaldez@hawaii.edu) (email)

**From:** Donna M Fukuda [donna@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 7:47 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Re: electronic testimony

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

From: Donna M Fukuda <donna@hawaii.edu>  
Date: Friday, February 13, 2009 7:40 am  
Subject: electronic testimony  
To: [LABtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:LABtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

> Dear Representative Karl Rhoads,  
> and Members of the:  
>

> COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

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

>

> Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino	Rep. Mark M. Nakashima
> Rep. Karen Leinani Awana	Rep. Scott K. Saiki
> Rep. Faye P. Hanohano	Rep. Joseph M. Souki
> Rep. Gilbert S.C. Keith- Agaran	Rep. Roy M. Takumi
> Rep. Marilyn B. Lee	Rep. Kymberly Marcos Pine

> My name is Donna Fukuda, and I am a (25+ years) faculty member at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I wish to express deep concern over the content and intent of the following House Bills which are scheduled to be heard today:

> NOTICE OF HEARING

HB1106 Relating to Public Employment  
> HB1718 Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits  
> HB1719 Relating to Public Employees  
> HB1725 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefit Trust Fund  
>

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

>

> I realize that in efforts to find revenue savings is critical in the current economic times. However, as a health care professional, it is my hope that well-being of our economy will not be at the expense of our people's health and wellness.

>

> Over the years, my health care insurance coverage has been primarily through my husband's plan. Whenever supplemental plans were available, I enrolled, and truly appreciated the benefit. I am fortunate to have an alternative, and believe that the State has already saved on a state employee like me (in terms of health care premiums cost). For those of my colleagues who do not have such alternative, the proposed measures are devastating. There must be other creative alternatives than jeopardizing one's physical and mental health and wellness.

>

> **I do not support the measures proposed in:**

> HB1106 Relating to Public Employment

> HB1718 Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits

> HB1719 Relating to Public Employees

> HB1725 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefit Trust Fund

>

>

> Thank you.

>

> Donna M. Fukuda, R.D.H., M.P.H.

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** gene murayama [getmay@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 6:57 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* HB 1719 et al

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Gene Murayama. As a public employee for 33 years, I am deeply concerned about the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say.

HB 1106 is supposed to "protect the rights of public employees" in the event of a furlough. The present language of the bill does not address the affects that furloughs would have on retirement benefits. I believe that any reduction in salary should not be factored into the calculation of one's retirement benefits (when calculating one's "high three" years of service). In addition, Section 4 of HB 1106 appears to be contrary to current collective bargaing laws.

HB 1719 concerns me because it appears to be thinly veiled attempt to force people into early retirement. 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. I believe that by forcing employees into retirement by July 1, 2009, we will have consider less knowledgeable and experienced public employees in government service. One has to carefully consider the financial and public service ramifications that would result from this bill (e.g. decreased service to the public, increased retirement pension payouts, withdrawal of ERS contributions, etc.) 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 Hawaii.

HB 1725 pertains to prescription drug coverage. Although this bill is only temporary (assuming that it is not extended after 2015), we are gambling with six years of prescription medication expenses. It will deter some employees and retirees from accessing medication 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.

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## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** jnkubo@hawaiiantel.net  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 6:58 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Julie Kubo, a pharmacist at Hilo Medical Center. As a public employee for 18 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1719.

HB 1106 is supposed to "protect the right 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 breadwinners for our entire families. How can we afford a reduction in 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 of particular 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 have made to ensure that my son graduated from college before I retire are suddenly up in the air. I now have to make a 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 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 of institutional knowledge and expertise that we would experience is putting our families in Hawaii at risk. State programs that protect Hawaii's children, elderly and public would 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 1819 and to send a strong message to Speaker Say, that he cannot punish civil servants for their dedication and commitment to the state of Hawaii.

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.

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Frommer, Charlie [cfrommer@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 7:20 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** House Bills

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Though I have only been a public employee for a little over four years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say.

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?

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 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 Hawaii at risk. 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.

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

Regards,

Charlie Frommer  
Building Inspector  
Department of Planning and Permitting  
City and County of Honolulu

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Doreenkai@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 4:27 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Feb. 13, 2009 hearing at 8:30 am

Please accept this as my testimony:

I wish to express my indignation on House Bill Nos. 1106, 1719, 1718 and 1725.

I feel very stressed and pressured to make a decision on my future as a State employee by retiring by 6/30/09 according to HB 1719. I have 35 years of service with the State and am 60 years old. I was not planning on retiring this year but in the near future. Four months to retire is too abrupt and not enough time to plan. It's not fair to have to pay the health premiums after 7/1/09 per HB 1719.

Please do not pass these bills as they are creating a panic for senior employees of the State who are being forced to retire and/or pay our own health premiums.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Doreen Kaibara  
Department of Attorney General  
2/13/09

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**From:** Bran-D Foster Heckman [brand808@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 6:16 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** please vote no on....

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Bran-D Foster Heckman and I have been working for the Department of Health for 4 years. I am very upset about the following bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say:

**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 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 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.

I am a hard worker and proud to be a State Worker. I could make much more money, and spend less time doing extra paperwork or in meetings, in the private sector. However, I work at reduced pay for the benefits afforded State of Hawaii workers. Please vote no on these bills.

Please don't cut my benefits-if you have to cut something please offer a voluntary furlough once per month.

Thank you for your time.

Bran-D Foster Heckman

## **yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:**alconcelp001 [alconcelp001@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 6:38 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** requesting your help

Hi, my name is Pearl Alconcel and I live in your district and voted for you, I work for CSD at Pearlridge Satellite City Hall and am a member of HGEA.

I'm also a taxpayer. I spend money at local businesses everyday 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 career in public service knowing that my pay may not be as good as in the private sector but I rely on retirement and health benefits for myself and my family.

I think it's wrong for the 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.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. .

As a public employee for 2 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker

Calvin Say. Specifically:

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 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.

Thank you  
Pearl Alconcel

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Darren Wong [wongd014@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 12:54 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Fairness for Public Employees

Dear honored representatives,

I appeal to your sense of fairness and ask that you reject HB 1106, HB 1719, and HB 1725. These three bills are nothing but take aways from hard-working folks who in all likelihood have similar values to you and your family. I have dedicated 17 years to serving our community as a wastewater engineer. I don't dream of getting rich. I just hope that I can afford to raise my family.

Please treat us fairly. Reject HB 1106, HB 1719, and HB 1725.

Thank you,  
Darren Wong

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Leonard Batungbacal [luckyb1@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 2:32 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in opposition to HB 1719& HB 1725. Testimony in favor of HB 1106

Leonard Batungbacal  
1549 Molehu Drive  
Honolulu, HI 96818

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Leonard Batungbacal. As a public employee for 25 years, I am opposed to some of the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: I'm opposed to HB 1719, and HB 1725. However, I would support HB 1106 as it clarifies how retirement and leave calculations would work in the event of furloughs.

I believe that these bills and others that will be heard on Tuesday February 17<sup>th</sup> show a lack of regard for the sacrifices and dedication of many State employees and a lack of commitment and fiduciary responsibility to safe guard the funds necessary to fulfill the State's contractual obligations to its employees.

**HB 1719** is of concern to me because it reduces a benefit that was "earned" after working for ten years (or 25 years for younger workers); however, most employees worked a minimum of 25 and nowadays 30+ years before actually being able utilize this "earned benefit". It is something that we have helped to pay for during the span of our working years via the many forms of taxation each annum. I also think that it is falsehood to state that your cost of living will go down when you retire. For myself and I'm sure many others our mortgages won't be paid off by the time we retire and that means for some that they may not be able to afford the health premiums on the fixed income they will receive when retired. One should consider that we are most likely experiencing a temporary reprieve in the cost of gasoline & other fuels, what happens to the retirees when the cost of gasoline jumps to \$6 a gallon(like it is in many parts of the world for decades). I believe as a taxpayer that it is very important that health benefits be assured because retired seniors may have to choose to be without medical benefits to keep roof over heads and food on the table. This will ultimately cost the State and Federal government more.

This bill forces to people to consider retiring this year, or need to plan on working to the current Medicare retirement age. This bill will result in reducing State expenditures by essentially raising the age of retirement

Although I oppose this bill 1719, I would suggest that the bill should specify age 65 and not the Medicare retirement age which could be subject to change as the Federal government struggles to address it's own fiscal issues.

**HB 1725** is opposed because it locks in what is supposed to be a temporary change for no less than 6 years and has no review period prior to the year 2015 to determine when these drastic changes were no longer needed should our economy turn around earlier than the year 2015. A bigger concern is that this will take place when employees will most likely be furloughed for 1 or 2 days a month and HB 1727 also calls for employees to pay a 100% of dental and vision plan cost. Employees that earn less will get hurt the most via this bill. The combined impact this bill, HB 1727 & furloughing will lead to another negative consequence which is reduced spending by employees which will help to

contribute to a further decline in our local economy because employees with less discretionary funds will spend less! Many line staff are already working paycheck to paycheck, this will hurt individual workers and their families.

**Please vote "no" in regards to HB 1719 and HB 1725**

I would suggest that the legislature consider ways to generate more revenue in State by reducing the interstate trade deficit that currently exist between us and New Mexico, Arizona and Nevada to make our economy healthier. We send millions every year to New Mexico and Arizona for the care of Hawaii's incarcerated adults and we locals dump millions into Nevada coffers each year. These events help to stimulate other States economy and help to slow ours. Consider building up on our existing prisons so that we can bring our incarcerated residents home and help to stimulate our economy by keeping our tax dollars in State to multiple via new jobs, ongoing expenses for food, clothing, etc. Stop the Las Vegas drain by offering some forms of legalized gambling and taxing existing underground gambling that thrives in Hawaii already.

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** jnfaus@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 4:12 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1718/1719/1725

My name is Judy Faustino and I work for the Hawaii Dept of Agriculture, and am an HGEA member. I strongly oppose HB1718, HB1719, and HB1725 which propose to reduce retirement and health benefits for State and county employees.

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 so do everyone else in our office. Is this the thanks we get? 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. When I left the private sector, I took a cut in pay knowing that the benefits the State offered would make up for it.

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

Please look for other ways to balance the budget. Although an unpopular choice, 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.

Thank you.

Judy Faustino

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** PHYLLIS TOM [pk\_tom@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 12:37 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: HB 1106, 1719, 1725

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today. My name is Phyllis Tom and I have been a public employee for 25 years. I am deeply upset by the following bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say, HB 1725 and especially HB's 1106 and 1719.

Furloughing public employees with HB 1106 to balance a budget demonstrates poor planning. As a single parent, would the reduction in salary caused by the furlough then make me eligible for free health services, food stamps and any other state offered free service so that I can balance my own family budget?

HB 1719 tells me to withhold my plans for retirement in five years, because I need to continue working until I reach medicare age since I will have to pay for my own health benefits. I may be less productive as I reach an elder status, but that is acceptable to remain in the workplace just so that I can pay for medical benefits. My childrens' future college plans may be affected by this bill since I will have an unplanned expense to consider.

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. 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 is literally a death sentence if one cannot incur the cost of needed prescriptions for six years. It just may be the only choice a public employee could make especially if they had a reduction in salary due to a furlough.

These bills are the same type of economic solutions that the rest of the country has taken which perpetuates more economic woes. Will the community feel that the State's economy is secure just because the legislators cast aside public employees and placed them in the same boat as employee's of failing businesses? Or, will this create a greater ripple effect that in hindsight future legislators will look for scapegoats for their colleagues past mistakes such as illegally tapping into employee retirement funds in the late '90's that now jeopardizes the future funding of benefits.

Please be more proactive and forthright by creating win-win solutions for all involved, especially the public employees who are one of the last remaining wage earners in this unstable economy. Demonstrate to our State that creative workable solutions are available. Please vote "no" on all of these bills that take away benefits from public employees.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Tom

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Joy Magarifuji [joymaga@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 12:40 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Joy Magarifuji. As a public employee for 18 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1106, HB 1719, and 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 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. Some of us do not have enough years of service or age to retire.

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. 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. Maybe he should propose to forfeit his pay and benefits. While he's at it, he can do the same for the governor who spent more time out of state campaigning for presidential candidates.

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.

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Sincerely,

Joy Magarifuji

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Audrey Wong.

As a public employee for 32 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1106, HB 1719 & HB1725. 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 my salary is hugely disruptive as any decrease would affect my ability to pay my living expenses and meet my financial obligations.

I, 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. After being a civil servant for over 30 years, I believed that I would be able to count on a safe retirement. Speaker Say's bill, which disregards my years of service and forces me to pay for 100% of my medical plan coverage 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. Unfortunately, I am not one of those who can retire before July 1, 2009 and still retain my current level of medical care. If this bill passes, I will be required to choose between retiring before the Medicare retirement age and paying for medical coverage out of pocket or postponing retirement until the Medicare retirement age.

Speaker Say is backing public employees into a corner, and it's irresponsible for him to suggest that this economic crisis should be resolved by sacrificing our and our families' health and well being. 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.

*Audrey Wong*

**From:** Zita Castro [zita@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:09 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** February 13, 2008 Hearing at 8:30am, State Capitol, Rm 309

I oppose HB1719, HB1725 and HB1106. I believe that cutting down government employees' benefits is NOT the correct approach to solve the budget shortfall. We have survived from the previous economic crisis without cutting down government employees' benefits. Our Government has done an excellent job in dealing with our State's economic crisis in the past. Hope that our Government will find better ways to solve this problem.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Kevin Oshiro.

As a public employee for 1-1/2 years, I am deeply upset and troubled by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1106, HB 1719 and 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 would like to pose this question to the Speaker: As a father of a newborn son and a 2 year old daughter a reduction in my salary will have a devastating affect on my family. Being the sole breadwinner for my entire family, with this reduction that you are proposing, how will I be able to pay my rent, put gas in my car and feed my family?

I am very upset and 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 am grateful for the job that I have and I chose to work for less pay to be able to contribute to the community that I deeply love. On balance, I believed that I would be able to count on a safe retirement. Speaker Say's bill, which disregards my years of future 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.

As a civil servant, Speaker Say is backing me and my family 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. 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. I, myself, have benefitted and learned so much from my "elders" from different state branches to help better serve my community. 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. As a person who suffers from asthma and who is very grateful for my prescription benefits, the passing of HB 1725 would make my medication that keeps my asthma under control unaffordable.

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

Mahalo for taking the time to read my testimony.

Kevin Oshiro

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Bobby Bus [sjb@ifa.hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 7:24 AM  
**To:** Rep. Faye Hanohano; Rep. Mark Nakashima  
**Cc:** Rep. Karl Rhoads; Rep. Kyle Yamashita; LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Letter to Committee on Labor and Public Employment

RE: HB1106, HB1718, HB1719, and HB1725

Dear Representative Hanohano and Representative Nakashima,

My name is Schelte Bus. I am a resident of Hilo, a research faculty member of the University of Hawaii, a member of UHPA, and a registered voter. I am also a taxpayer, and help support local businesses through my purchases of their products and services. While I find the economic situation facing our country, state and communities very sobering, I feel it is unfair for the House of Representatives to consider balancing the State budget in ways that would so adversely affect public employees as those proposed in the House bills now up for consideration.

I work hard at my job, and have been committed to serving the University by promoting its goals of higher education and research. While I know I could be making more money at other institutions on the Mainland or in the private sector, I was attracted to the University of Hawaii, in no small part, by the benefits and retirement plan offered to its employees, and by the representation offered by the UHPA.

I feel that asking employee unions to make the major concessions proposed before this committee without the State meeting its obligation to bargain in good faith is wrong. Taking away the right of unions to negotiate our health benefits will have long-lasting repercussions that will adversely affect state employees long after the economy recovers and prosperity has returned to Hawaii.

As a resident of this great State, I am willing to do my share in these troubling times. Though not enthusiastic about the prospects, I would be willing to accept furloughs or higher taxes for the short term, because I know that once Hawaii's economy rebounds, these measures would be repealed, and life would return to normal. However, tampering with my health benefits, retirement plans, and my voice as a member of a unified workforce are actions that will never be repealed, and will have lasting adverse affects on me and my family.

I ask you to please consider other options for balancing Hawaii's budget than those that are before you today.

Thank you,  
Schelte J. Bus

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** Brian Schatz [hawaiischatz@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 7:24 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony; Rep. Gilbert Keith-Agaran; Rep. Karl Rhoads  
**Subject:** LATE TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Rhoads and members of the committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1718, HB 1719, and HB 1725.

I understand that the House and Senate are in uncharted waters, and that all options are on the table with respect to achieving a balanced budget.

However I believe that these measures are not the wisest way to balance the budget as they disproportionately place the burdens of our current economic crisis on public employees. The savings incurred would not be worth the human cost and lost productivity.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, I think we ought to wait until we confirm from the Obama administration and our Congressional Delegation how much money is coming to Hawaii from the stimulus bill before entertaining such draconian measures as those contained in these bills.

Respectfully,

Brian Schatz  
Chair  
Hawaii Democratic Party

**From:** honmab@gmail.com on behalf of Bonnie Honma [bhonma@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:38 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony; Sen. Gary Hooser; Rep. Roland Sagum; Rep. James Tokioka  
**Cc:** kris@upha.org  
**Subject:** HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1725

Attention: Senator Hooser, Rep., Sagum, Rep. Togioka AND

COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

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

Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino	Rep. Mark M. Nakashima
Rep. Karen Leinani Awana	Rep. Scott K. Saiki
Rep. Faye P. Hanohano	Rep. Joseph M. Souki
Rep. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran	Rep. Roy M. Takumi
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee	Rep. Kymberly Marcos Pine

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The recent bills relating to reduction in benefits for Government employees is very disturbing. Many professionals took position within State and County governments based on promised benefits at the time of retirement. I am a Professor at the University of Hawaii, Kauai Community College and have 27 years of service, having made 55 yesterday. With a child in college, I have no immediate plan to retire but projected it for age 59 based on 30 years of service and the benefit plan promised.

While I have been offered several lucrative positions in the public sector, the decision to refuse those positions was largely based on the benefit package currently received and promised at retirement. I feel it is unjust and irresponsible for the State not to fulfill their commitment to their public servants who have earned their benefits and continue to serve the State of Hawaii in good faith.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concern.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Honma, Counselor/Professor  
Kauai Community College, University of Hawaii

**From:** Miriam Kikukawa [wailani2906@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 1:34 AM  
**To:** Sen. Shan Tsutsui; Sen. Roz Baker; Sen. J. Kalani English; Rep. Joseph Souki; Rep. Gilbert Keith-Agaran; Rep. Angus McKelvey; repbetram@capitol.hawaii.gov; Rep. Kyle Yamashita; Rep. Mele Carroll; LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony re: HB1106, HB1715, HB1718, HB1719, HB1723, HB1725, HB1726, HB1727, HB1737

Dear Maui County State Legislators, & Members of the House Labor & Public Employee Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Miriam Kikukawa. As a public employee for 17 years, I am deeply disturbed by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB1106, HB1715, HB1718, HB1719, HB1723, HB1725, HB1726, HB1727, & HB1737

HB1106 is supposed to 'protect the rights of public employees' in the event of a furlough.

I am a single parent with 3 children. I don't have much but the promise-contract I made along with thousands of others as a public servant. When I first applied for this public service job I had the opportunity to work elsewhere but I chose not to because of the medical benefits that I would have after I retire. You all know the wages of the state government employees are not desirable but all of us who are in these positions sacrificed for future benefits. This is our hope and dreams. Please don't take it away or make any changes.

I trust the state government, my employer to be true to your word, our contract. I still have faith in you, and believe that you will all make the right decision and vote "no" on all these bills that take away benefits from public employees who worked hard, made sacrifices and endured to reap it.

Thank you and may God bless you all.

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Amy Higa [higaa005@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 12:58 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** H.B. 1725

Please do not support H.B. 1725.

If this bill passes, it will cause great hardship to State government retirees who are on fixed incomes. Due to the high cost of prescription drugs today, many retirees will no longer be able to pay for prescription drugs that are extending their lives.

Please look for other ways to balance the budget, like raising the excise tax, which would mean everyone will share the burden and not only State government retirees.

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** Steven Apt [apts001@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 12:55 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony on HB 1725

February 13, 2009

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and member of the committee

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony this morning. My name is Diane Apt. As a public employee who served for more than 37 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1725.

HB 1725 states that from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2015, prescription drug coverage would cease under EUTF. This bill would place the entire burden of prescription drug costs on public employees and retirees. We have read about people who have had to choose between food and medicine they need to for serious and life-threatening illnesses. I never believed in Hawaii where we say our state wants health coverage for all its citizens that the Legislature would choose to endanger the lives of our public servants, elderly, sick, and retirees. With the ever increasing cost of prescription drugs this bill would unfairly punish all EUTF members and could literally put public workers in life threatening situations—having to choose to pay for food, shelter, or much needed medicine.

Please vote 'No' on this bill.

## yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** Yara Lamadrid-Rose [yardav@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 12:45 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** Rep. Jessica Wooley  
**Subject:** Testimony for LAB Friday, February 13, 2009

Yara Lamadrid-Rose  
[yardav@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:yardav@hawaii.rr.com)

February 12, 2009

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair  
Committee on Labor and Public Employment  
Hearing February 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309

RE: Testimony in Opposition to HB1106, HB1718, HB1719, and HB1725

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB1106, HB1718, HB1719, and HB1725. Please vote "no" on these bills.

I have been in public service for almost 25 years. These bills would hurt me, and my family, in very personal ways. Specifically, HB1725, heard here today (and HB 1727 to be heard Tuesday, February 17th) is the most onerous. HB1725 (and HB1727) would prohibit the EUTF from providing prescription drug coverage (HB1725), and dental and vision coverage (HB1727) for 6 years! This is a regressive bill in a state that prides itself in providing health care for its people.

My husband lost his job in March 2008. I was the sole breadwinner for our family (2 young children) until he found employment a few months later, at a fraction of his previous salary, I might add. I also provide the medical, prescription drug, dental, and vision coverage for our family through the EUTF. HB1725 (and HB1727) will impact our ability to adequately take care of our family, and ourselves, when we have the greatest need, when we are ill, as well as provide preventative care for our children. Our family has already tightened its belt, we have cut back and economize on everything to make ends meet and provide for our family. HB1725 would add an incredible financial burden on our family when we can least afford it.

I strongly disagree with Section 4 of HB1106. It would allow the Governor to unilaterally furlough state employees.

HB1718 and HB1719 also threaten state employees and their health in retirement, by eliminating reimbursement for Medicare part B (HB1718), and taking away the "gap" coverage until Medicare retirement age (HB1719) for those do not retire by certain dates. We have always been told to look at pay and benefits as a "package." Our pay is less than comparable employment in the private sector, but the benefits in medical and retirement balance the pay difference. These bills would change the ground rules of our employment in a negative way.

Please vote “no” on HB1106, HB1718, HB1719, and HB1725. These bills would place unnecessary burdens on hard working public employees during these difficult times.

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c: Rep. Jessica Wooley

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 12:17 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** kodamam001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1725

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Michael Kodama  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 310 S. Alu Rd. Wailuku Hawaii  
Phone: 8082839752  
E-mail: [kodamam001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kodamam001@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

Comments:

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** Ward [rivergal@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:47 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* OPPOSE HB 1725 RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND.

Dear Chairperson Rhoads, my name is Deborah Ward and I live in your district and voted for you. I work for the Department of Land and Natural Resources and I am a member of HGEA.

I strongly oppose HB 1725 which would eliminate the employer contribution to prescription drug coverage under the employer-union health benefits trust fund and place the burden for drug coverage costs solely upon employee-beneficiaries.

This bill takes an outrageously simplistic and callous approach and cheapens the value of human health!

Though the bill calls the effective period as "temporary" from 07/01/2009 to 06/30/2015, there is no sound rationale for depriving public employees of necessary prescription drug coverage for this length of time. People who cannot afford to cover their own costly medicines will sicken and die needlessly!

Removing prescription drug coverage from working people puts people's health ever more at risk at a time when reduced staffing (vacancy savings), resultant added stress, and increased medical costs are rife.

If this bill passes, the health of public workers, the provision of public services, and the health of our community will all suffer. Healthy people are better workers, better parents and better community members. I ask you to please hold kill this bill for the good of our community.

Thank you,  
Deborah Ward

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 12:15 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** kodamaj001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1725

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Judy Kodama  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 310 S. Alu Rd. Wailuku Hawaii  
Phone: 8082836671  
E-mail: [kodamaj001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kodamaj001@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

Comments:

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Jan Correa [jsachi.correa@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:37 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* HB 1719, HB 1725, HB 1718, HB 1715, HB 1727

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Jan Correa, Pharmacist for the Dept.of Health.

As a public employee for 5 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1719, HB 1725, HB 1718, HB 1715, HB 1727

HB 1719 is of concern to me. As a civil servant, I chose to work for less pay (taking more than half a cut in pay from retail pharmacy) 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.

The legislators approved pay raises for themselves even though many knew long ago that we would be in this budget deficit. The legislators get the same benefits, if not similar benefits as a full-time state employee even though they only work 4 months out of the year. Many of them are able to retire after this year's session, enabling them to retain all their retirement benefits & health benefits, that they are trying to take away from those of us who work 12 months out of the year, not just four, and from those of us who get paid way less than what the legislators get paid.

The Judiciary and Dept.of Education employees who are also STATE employees are not affected by these bills. We (civil servant employees) did not create this deficit alone, the STATE of HAWAII is in this deficit, so why target our group, ALL STATE employees should take cuts in pay and benefit, including legislators, Judiciary Branch, Executive Branch, D.O.E.

I strongly encourage this committee to vote "no" on HB 1719 and to send a strong message to Speaker Say, that he cannot punish only 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. We already pay a large premium for our Medical and 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. If this bill is passed, in 2015, someone (a legislator) will need to re-introduce the bill, which would be highly unlikely if they all voted for it in the first place, which would mean it would not resurface, and there would no longer ever be prescription drug coverage. 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.

HB 1727 would prohibit provision of dental and vision coverage. Like HB 1725, it is a regressive bill when the rest of the nation is talking about improvements to our health care coverage.

HB 1715 would increase the age and service time required to retire. Now that most of the legislators have served numerous terms, and have reached retirement age, it will not affect them. Many young civil servant employees have sacrificed low pay to work for the state, in public health, so that they can retire comfortably, and should have the same privileges of having the security of medical, dental, vision, and prescription drug coverage, without worrying about having to work 10 more years or until they're 70 years old!

Please vote "no" on all of these bills that take away benefits from public employees. Think about your children and your children's children, the young people who will be running this state, if there is still a civil servant population, how will they be able to afford taking care of their parents when their parents lose all of their health benefits because of these bills? Look at the BIG picture. Not just at the civil servant population. Explore other avenues to decrease cost.

**From:** ELLEN TAKAYAMA [eltaks@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:38 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* Testimony

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:  
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Ellen Takayama. As a public employee for 30 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1722, HB 1723, HB 1725 and HB 1727.

Speaker Say is backing us into a corner, and it is irresponsible for him to suggest that this economic crisis should be resolved by sacrificing the health and well being of me and my family.

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.

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## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Yvonne Wilson [yvnnwilson@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:10 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Fw: HB: 1718, 1719, 1720, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1725, 1727

--- On **Wed, 2/11/09**, **Yvonne Wilson** <yvnnwilson@yahoo.com> wrote:

From: Yvonne Wilson <yvnnwilson@yahoo.com>

Subject: HB: 1718, 1719, 1720, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1725, 1727

To: reprhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov, repyamashita@capitol.hawaii.gov, repaquino@capitol.hawaii.gov, repawana@capitol.hawaii.gov, rephanohano@capitol.hawaii.gov, repkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov, replee@capitol.hawaii.gov, repnakashima@capitol.hawaii.gov, repsaiki@capitol.hawaii.gov, repsouki@capitol.hawaii.gov, reptakumi@capitol.hawaii.gov, reppine@capitol.hawaii.gov

Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 12:23 AM

Dear Labor Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and members:

Please do not allow the above mentioned House Bills to pass. I am currently working at Hawaii State Hospital and nearing retirement age after working in many different state positions. I chose to remain a state worker after returning to state employment in 1996 due to a couple of reasons (needs of my family while caring for my elderly parents on Maui), and the state's retirement benefits. You need to know that as a registered occupational therapist who has consistently sought training in my profession (usually at my own cost) I am paid approximately \$20,000.00 less per annum compared to the private sector. This disparity in pay makes me depend on the differential pay that I receive and occasional over-time pay to help make ends meet.

What Calvin Say is proposing is disastrous for my retirement planning, especially since I just gave up a chance for advancement thinking that the rules of retirement when I signed on are/will be in place. After 38 years of experience (e.g., training occupational therapy students, providing consultation to other professionals, agencies, and consumers, being a case manager, and a supervisor in the private sector, etc.), I am still stuck in the system's entry level position. The state is receiving a lot of expertise without paying a fair wage. If the Speaker of the House has his way, my years of retirement will be a struggle, and am too old to make a meaningful change in plans as I am 60 1/2 years-old.

Most state employees are underpaid. The extra holidays and retirement plan help make up for the disparity in pay between the private and public sectors. Yes, there are some workers who do not have enough work to do and something should be done about eliminating their positions. As a registered occupational therapist (OTR), I have never had that experience, but just the opposite-putting in many more hours than I am being paid for. As someone from the private sector observed, I am not the "typical" state worker (whatever their perception is). The state will also suffer; there will be fewer applicants for positions if they know the rules of employment may be changed capriciously.

Please support the state employees by voting "No" to HB: 1718, 1719, 1720, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1725, and 1727. Mahalo,

Yvonne Wilson, OTR  
Occupational Therapy Dept.  
Hawaii State Hospital

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Susan Hokama.

As a public employee for 2 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB1106.

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 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.

Susan Hokama

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** Elaine Aotaki [aotaki@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:26 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Re: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employers-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

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

Aloha.

My name is Elaine Aotaki. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which this bill prohibits the employer-union health benefits trust fund to provide prescription drug coverage and for the employee-beneficiaries pay the full amount for the prescriptive drug coverage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Elaine Aotaki  
Clerk-Typist II, Attendance Office  
Lahainaluna High School

**From:** MICHELLE LAYOSA [mmlgb@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:01 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony on bills

02/12/2009

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Michelle Layosa-Bonilla and I am a public employee with 26 years of service. Bills HB1106, HB1719, HB1725, HB1723, HB1715, HB1726, and HB1727 introduced by Speaker Calvin Say moves me to speak out.

One of the fundamental things in life is meaningful work for proper compensation. Like others my job has afforded me to work at a job I enjoy and to live in a place I love. It has helped me to provide for my family including planning for a safe retirement. A retirement I thought I could depend on. I will be betrayed if any of these bills are passed.

As legislatures you have a duty to do your best job to uphold the law. These bills are a poor showing for the letter of the law and the spirit of law, but most of all it is just wrong. As representatives of the people, you are expected to perform with respect, dignity, and honor. Please do what is right and vote "NO" to these bills. Mahalo.

---

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**From:** Kurt Muraoka [kimuraoka@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:56 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Requesting Your Support

As an employee of the State of Hawaii, I am asking for your support to oppose the following bills that will greatly reduce our wages, and health and retirement benefits:

- HB 1106 Relating to Public Employment
- HB 1718 Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits
- HB 1719 Relating to Public Employees
- HB 1725 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

- HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees
- HB 1715 - Relating to Retirement
- HB 1726 - Relating to Health Fund
- HB 1727 - Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

I understand the financial crisis that we are in. Our budgets have been cut and our staffing has been reduced, and we are working harder than ever to keep up with our responsibilities with the limited resources we have. Due to the low salaries and reduced benefits that are currently available to State employees, we have lost several employees to the private sector, where they were able to get higher salaries and free health benefits. The low salaries and reduced benefits have also made it difficult to attract the best qualified applicants to fill our vacancies.

Further reductions to our wages, and health and retirement benefits will cause many of our most experienced workers to retire earlier than they would want to. Thus, creating a greater knowledge and experience loss than we already have, making operations even more difficult.

I do not believe that we should be singled out to help reduce the budget. I sacrificed my private career to be a public servant knowing that I would no longer make as much as my private sector counterparts, but that I would be able to count on the health and retirement benefits that I was offered when I started with the State. In addition to the budget cuts that have already been proposed, the fairest way to balance the budget and address the State's revenue problem would be to raise the various taxes (income tax, excise tax, etc.) and increase user fees. This way everyone would be sharing the burden, not just the State and County employees.

Thank you,  
Kurt Muraoka

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:57 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** uluahunter@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1725

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: thomas fratinaro  
Organization: Individual  
Address: P.O. Box 458 Laupahoehoe, Hawaii  
Phone: 962-6102  
E-mail: [uluahunter@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:uluahunter@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

**Comments:**

I oppose HB1725. How can you expect that that those of us on a fixed income could manage paying our own premiums? That when we became public employees this is one of the benefits that attracted me to my career as a police officer. You will have a mass application to HMSA quest and welfare if this bill is passed.

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Linda Currivan [lcurrivan@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:54 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** Kristeen Hanselman  
**Subject:** House Bills Due for Hearing on 2/13/09

Members of the Committee on Labor and Public Employment:

In reading over the descriptions of these proposed bills (1106,1718,1719 and 1725), I am struck by the thought that folks who have spent their adult working lives in public service have been terribly misled. We thought that long-term loyalty to the State would at least be recognized and perhaps respected: instead, when the House addresses the "current and ongoing economic crisis in the State," apparently the first consideration is to demonstrate gratitude by

1. Thoughtfully seeking to protect our rights under furloughs (HB 1106) which have not even been proposed to our unions, nor been subject of negotiation. How exactly one might suggest furloughing UH faculty and yet maintain there is "no cost to the public" is subject of much conjecture on our parts: students register and pay for a specified number of contact hours and are only offered 2/3 of the class time? 4/5?
2. "Compensating for dire economic crisis" by allowing the State to reimburse employees for Medicare Part B premiums (HB 1718) only if they retire within the next year? You must anticipate great savings in early retirements without understanding the unanticipated consequence of losing some of the most talented and knowledgeable faculty members who stay on because they feel they are letting down junior faculty if they leave before those coming in are capable of assuming forward motion without risking a loss of standards. Force them out, and see what you are left with. If you make this bed, you will lie down in it.
3. Then the State's inability to conduct "business as usual" mandates that it demonstrates its appreciation to long-term employees by suspending contributions to the health fund if they retire before medicare retirement age? So HB 1718 encourages them to leave if they want premiums Medicare Part B premiums reimbursed, but then HB 1719 forces them to pay the State's share of EUTF contributions until they reach medicare retirement age? The idea is to get State employees both coming and going, right?
4. And the meanest cut of all--HB 1725--for those of us who gravitated to State service because of what we perceived as decent health benefits, as we near the retirement years, just "temporarily" withdraw one of the most important of benefits--prescription drugs-- for only 6 years. How considerate.

I am embarrassed to say that I didn't see this coming when then- Governor Ben Cayetano offered to withdraw our health coverage over the summer break. It is truly unconscionable that when the circumstances turn "dire," the first line of attack is to defend what you propose doing in these measures. Thank you, Calvin K.Y. Say.

Linda Currivan  
Professor, Language Arts  
UH-Leeward Community College  
808 455-0334

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** Patricia Kauhane [patkauhane@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:55 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Opposition to HB 1719, 1723, 1725, 1726

I am opposed to HB 1719, 1723, 1725, 1726. Patricia Kauhane

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Sharon Wong  
1054 Kaupaku Place  
Honolulu, HI 96825  
February 21, 2009

Representative Karl Rhoads  
Chair, House Committee on Labor and Public Employment  
28th Representative District  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 326  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Representative John Mizuno  
Vice-Chair, House Committee on Labor and Public Employment  
12th Representative District  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 422  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: IN OPPOSITION TO:**

- 1) HB1718 (RELATING TO EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS);**
  - 2) HB1719 (RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES), and;**
  - 3) HB1725 (RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND)**
- HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT  
ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2009, 8:30 A.M., CONFERENCE  
ROOM 309**

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

Thank you for providing the opportunity for me to testify. My name is Sharon Wong and I have been a public employee for twenty years. I chose to remain a public servant because of my commitment to work for the citizens of Hawaii and for the benefits of public employment. While I understand the State's bleak financial situation, I do not support HB1718, HB1719, and HB1725, which all aim to reduce public employee benefits as the solutions to balance the State budget.

Of particular concern is HB1719, which affects medical coverage for employees who retire after July 1, 2009. If this bill becomes law, there will be a mass exodus of retirement-eligible employees by June 30, 2008. This will cause a serious negative impact on government operations, as the most senior and knowledgeable employees will have retired. By the time this becomes law, there will be no time for transition planning, large gaps will occur in government operations due to the loss of seasoned public employees, which will negatively affect services to the Hawaii citizens.

Page 2  
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment  
RE: HB1718, HB 1719, and HB1725  
February 13, 2009

HB1718 and HB1725 both reduce the benefits of public employment. I made a conscious decision to work in the public sector at a lower pay scale than the private sector, because I valued the entire benefits package that the State offered, especially the medical retirement benefit. To that end, I have invested twenty years of my working career with the State of Hawaii, and my future financial planning included the public employment benefits package.

Please vote "no" on HB1718, HB1719, and HB1725. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sharon Wong  
(via email)

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Jeannette Abara. As a public employee for the past 10 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say, Specifically in regards to HB 1719 and HB 1725.

When I first started work with state government in 1995, I was told that people get into the state system not for the pay but for the benefits that they offered, such as paid vacation, sick leave, holidays, and more importantly free health insurance. When you retire. I had many other opportunities to seek work out in the private sector but chose to work for the state mainly because of the security that it offered..

Yes, we are facing tough economic times, but trying to balance the budget by doing takeaways from those of us that have been dedicated to public service is not the way to go. I am also a tax payer. I spend money at local businesses to buy food, clothing and other needs. With the introduction of HB 1719, by the time I get to retirement age, I will not be able to afford to purchase health insurance at full premium. As a result, I will be placed into the same category of others choosing food or housing over health coverage,

I don't believe that it is 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 know that with cutbacks in funding, it will only mean doing more of the work with less resources. I have chosen to make a career in public service.

I think that it is wrong for representatives to take these benefits away from me. Please look at other ways to balance the budget perhaps raising the excise tax. This would be a fairer approach to address the states revenue problem. Everyone paying a little more will mean sharing the burden amongst all during these tough times instead of a select few from government service.

As for HB 17525, it says that from July 1, 2009 to June 20, 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 the rising chronic disease that require medications, coupled with talk of salary cuts and rises in our premiums, this will have a definite impact on the quality of life. It will deter some employees and retirees from assessing medicine that is essential for longer and healthier lives. This is a regressive bill when the rest of the nation is talking about improvements to our health coverage.

I am asking you to vote "NO" on both of these bills that take away benefits from public employees.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Jeannette Abara

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. My name is Gwenald Yuen. I have been a public employee for 26 years. I am deeply offended by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1719, 1725 and 1727.

HB 1719 is of much concern to me because as a civil servant, I chose to work for less pay to be able to contribute to the community. I also came in believing that I would have a satisfactory benefits package upon my 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 are worthless and promises to us can be broken mid-stream. This bill appears to be an attempt to force people like me into early retirement. With a son ready to attend college this fall, my plans to help him pay for his education is uncertain. 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 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.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. My name is Winnie Yuen and I have been a public employee for 2 years. I am deeply saddened by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1719, 1725 and 1727.

I believe that HB 1719 is unfair to public workers. I chose to work for less pay to be able to contribute to the community. Like other public workers, I believed that I would have a satisfactory benefits package when I retire. Speaker Say apparently does not think much of public employees since he believes that promises to us can be broken mid-stream. It is irresponsible for Say to suggest that this economic crisis should be resolved by sacrificing the health and well being public employees. 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.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Charles Miller. As a public employee for 22 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1106, HB 1719, and 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 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 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 of institutional knowledge and expertise that we could experience is putting our families in Hawaii at risk. State programs that protect Hawaii'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 Hawaii.

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.

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** Jenna Magarin [jenga58@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:31 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony: Oppose HB 1725 and 1727

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Joenaflor Magarin. As a public employee for 5 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say.

Specifically: HB 1725 and 1727.

With this bill being proposed, he is jeopardizing the lives of many people in State of Hawaii. These people include fathers, mothers, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and these people's children. As a public employee, I am outraged that these bills were even proposed. Also, how can these bills be introduced when currently our President of the United States and Congress is working on ways to improve our health care system for our nation. We need to look at other alternatives, instead of taking it away from the people that work for the public and State of Hawaii. Please vote "no" to these bills that take away benefits from public employees.

Thank you for hearing me out today.

Sincerely,

Joenaflor Magarin  
HHHSC, Maui Region

**From:** Wesley Matsunaga [wesm201@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:45 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Concerning Bills HB 1106, HB 1719, and HB 1725

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Wesley Matsunaga. As a public employee for 10.5 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say.

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.

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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. 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.

**From:** Julianne\_Ostrosky/KEONEPOKO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:05 PM  
**To:** Rep. Faye Hanohano; Rep. Mark Nakashima; Rep. Roy Takumi  
**Cc:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Please vote NO on HB1723, HB1715, HB1726, HB1727, HB1718, HB1719, HB1725, and HB110

Aloha Representative Hanohano, et.al.,

My name is Julianne Ostrosky and I live in your district and voted for you. I am currently employed as a 6th grade teacher at Keonepoko Elementary School in Hawaiian Beaches. Living and working in the district of Lower Puna on the Big Island since 1984, I have been employed as a teacher/instructor for the last 18 years and am a member of HSTA.

Being a taxpayer, I spend my hard-earned money every day, buying food, clothing and other needs for myself and my family at local businesses .

I don't believe it's fair for the House to be looking for ways to balance the budget on the backs of public employees. All the teachers I know work hard at their jobs, and things have become even harder now that 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 always depended on the fact that I could rely on fair retirement and health benefits for myself and my family.

I think it's **WRONG** for representatives to take these benefits away from me by supporting the following bills:

I am urging you to vote "NO" on HB1723, HB1715, HB1726, HB1727, HB1718, HB1719, HB1725, and HB1106.

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.

Thank you,

Julianne Ostrosky

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** Dex N. [dexsi@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:39 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1723, HB1719, HB1725, and HB1727

I am writing to express my opposition for these bills: HB1723, HB1719, HB1725, and HB1727.

Thank you,  
Dexsilyn Navarro

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** estrella ua [leilani1239@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:01 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Your health and retirement benefits are at risk!!!!

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

I Estrella L. Ua deeply oppose to all of the following bills #HB1718, #HB1719, HB1725, #HB1723, #HB1715, #HB1726 and #HB1727. My reasons are that I have been employed by D.O.E. for many years and have contributed to the state of Hawaii. I feel that I am entitled to all of the above for the sake of taking care of myself and my family.

Sincerely,  
Estrella L. Ua

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** Walter Harada [haradaw@hawaiiintel.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:55 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725, HB1726, and HB1727

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the Labor and Public Employment Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Walter Harada. As a retired public employee with 38 years of service at the University of Hawaii, I am concerned about the negative impact the following House Bills will have on the quality of my retirement:

- HB1725 - Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF.
- HB1726 - Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits.
- HB1727 - Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage.

I understand that the hearing for HB1725 will be on Friday, February 13 at 8:30 a.m., and the hearing for HB1726 and HB1727 will be on Tuesday, February 17 at 8:30 a.m.

When I signed by retirement documents in 2005, it is my understanding that I signed a contract with the State of Hawaii. I signed the contract to retire because I was very comfortable with the benefits that the contract provided. I consider it a breach of my contract if actions are now taken by the State to take away benefits provided in the contract that I signed at my retirement.

I urge you to vote "no" on all of the above bills. Let it be known that contracts issued by the State of Hawaii will be honored.

**From:** Renee Purdy [r\_purdygirl@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:54 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Requesting for your help

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

**Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Renee Purdy. As a public employee for a year, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1106, 1108, 1715, 1718, 1719, 1720, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1725, 1726, and 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 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 mideical benefits until the Medicare retirement age, is irresponsible. Instead of supporting public service, Speaker Say is telling us that the 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 oru 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, taht 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 durg coverage. This is literally a bill taht 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 taht 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.**

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**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:47 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** lyn\_worley@msn.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1725

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Earlyn Worley  
Organization: Individual  
Address: kahala avenue honolulu, HI  
Phone: 8082266594  
E-mail: [lyn\\_worley@msn.com](mailto:lyn_worley@msn.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

**Comments:**

I am a public servant, employed with the State of Hawaii, (DOE) and am a single mother of 5.

I work hard at my job and things are even harder now since vacancies have been frozen demands for services have increased, and budgets have been sliced. Personally, I make every effort to spend office budgeted funds, as if they were my own. Prioritizing needs and shopping for the best deal possible, in accordance to guidelines and procedures.

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, just as my grandparents, and father had.

I think it's wrong for representatives to take these benefits away from me. 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. It seems like an extreme penalty.

Please seek other ways to balance the budget. Everyone should share the burden during these tough times.

Yours truly,  
Lyn Worley

TO: Committee on Labor and Public Employment

February 13, 2009, 8:30 AM

Testimony Against HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1725

Aloha,

I am extremely disheartened to learn that the Committee on Labor & Public Employment is considering the following bills tomorrow: HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1725. Bills such as these, with little notice for public input, circumvents the collective bargaining process that state workers are entitled to.

While I understand the predicament that the state is currently in due to the financial crisis that has beset our nation, I do not see how reducing the medical premiums that the state pays will benefit the state. After all, if state employees must pay higher medical premiums, they will stop spending money in other ways and the state will ultimately lose revenue.

Measures such as these will make it hard to maintain a quality higher education force. If such bills were to pass, the state will experience a mass exodus of seasoned, tenured faculty members as they will choose to retire rather than lose medical benefits. Ultimately, the students will be severely affected with such a loss of expertise.

Perhaps this is what the state ultimately wants--for those at the top of the pay scale to retire so that lecturers can be hired at a much reduced price. But it is the state that will ultimately lose in such a reality as students will no longer have access to experts in their fields as their knowledge will no longer be passed down to the younger generations.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Hadmack  
Religion Instructor  
Windward Community College and University of Hawaii at Manoa

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** Norman Fujioka [nmfujioka@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:36 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Vote no on measures penalizing government employees and their families

To the Labor and Public Employment Committee:

As a retired state employee after 36 years of service, I am dismayed and shocked that Speaker Say is forgetting the services provided by former and current public employees. It is wrong and an insult for him or other legislators to seriously consider the bills before your committee. We have provided good-faith services to people in this state in good and bad economic times. To now forget about us when times are bad is to treat us commodities to be handled without regard to the real impact that such actions will entail. Almost everyone in this state knows or is related in some way to government employees. They may be parents, grandparents, siblings, and friends. Public employees also pay taxes and other fees to help our economy. The solution is not to penalize one group of people. The federal government is expected to provide some financial assistance to the state and the legislators should consider such aide which would reduce the financial impact to the state. We are all hurting financially. These bills unfairly target us as the "problem". Yet when elections roll around, politicians expect us to forget what is being considered. We will not forget. To be courageous is not to cruelly vote for these despicable bills but it is to vote a resounding "no" to these bills.

So I ask the committee members to kill these bills in committee and unanimously vote no to these bills:

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.

Mahalo for your action in turning back these cruel bills.

Norman M. Fujioka

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

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns. My name is Naomi Motoshige and a public employee for 32 years. I do not agree with Speaker Calvin Say and the bills he introduced against public employee.

HB 1106 - Furloughing employees.

HB 1718 - Halt reimbursement for Medicare part B premiums for employees retiring after 12/31/09

HB 1719 - Stop employer contribution for health benefits for those retiring after 7/1/09

HB 1725 - Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF

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.

When I started as a public employee my salary was so small that my children qualified for reduced lunch. It was an understanding that when you worked for the City, you are not working for the money (salary) but for the benefit when you retire.

If you vote in favor of Speaker Say bills you are allowing him to take away everything that I have worked so hard for in the last 32 years.

PLEASE, PLEASE, vote "NO" on all of these bills that take away benefits from public employees

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Kevin Cochran [kcochran2u@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:56 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Benefit Bill Testimony

**Pease find below testimony that I would like to introduce at the FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13 & FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17 House Labor & Public Employee Committee meetings.**

**Mahalo,  
Kevin Cochran**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Kevin Cochran. As a public employee for 8 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1106, 1723, 1725, 1727, 1719, 1726.

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? The possible impact of this bill to my family and our ability to maintain our household and probably our residence in this state would be devastating. With the current economy we barely make ends meet. As a mental health worker for the state I know that Hawaii can not afford to lose more providers. What is the cost on the other end when services have to be contracted because the State workers left?

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

Also for the above reasons I do not support HB1723, 1725 & 1727. As a young professional with a family part of my decision to work for the State is affordable health coverage; **complete** health coverage. The burden of losing prescription, dental and vision coverage mixed with the cost of having to provide it on my own in addition to any increases I would see as a result of HB1723 would not be an acceptable situation. Again, maybe it's the State's way of getting rid of good employees so they can pay out less not just in medical benefits but in positions? Again, can our state really afford a continued exodus of professionals?

HB 1719 is also of concern to me. As professional counselor, 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.

Lastly regarding HB 1726 I am disturbed at this attempt to balance the budget on the backs of the beneficiaries of deceased state employees. It's just plain wrong. Again where is the loyalty and gratitude to the thousands of state workers who have chosen to work for the betterment of the State of Hawaii.

Thoughtfully,  
Kevin Cochran

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## yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** Kaluhiwa, Juelle [jkaluhiwa@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:47 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Regarding HB1106, HB1718, HB1719, HB1723, HB1725, HB1726, HB1727

To the Labor & Public Employment Committee :

The above subject bills in the House Committee are causing grievous agitation among the rank and file of public employees.

With all due respect, those of us who are still engaged in government service and have accumulated extensive skills and intensive knowledge to apply to our job functions are currently dismayed at the audacity of the Legislature to introduce the entire gamut of Bills that would undermine the integrity of the loyal body of employees and discredit the Hawaii State government in their practice of hiring capable persons only to disregard the initial credibility in hiring practices. Furthermore, the majority of all government employees were enticed by the benefit package. Wherein they entrusted the government employer to maintain these benefits.

I solemnly believe that the introduction of these House Bills are rash and premature. To attain the proposed ends through legislative measures will create an atmosphere of distraught government employees heaping unnecessary stress and aggravation in the work place.

If the employer has foresight, they should choose to appreciation the masses of employees who have shown their dedication by increasing the desired and anticipated results in their daily service to the public.

In retrospect, the EUTF has already been strained due to the last change in medical benefits by altering the medical plans that were offered. The government withheld funding on their part and relied solely on employee contributions to create an administrative medical plan whereby the employees only had an administered medical plan not health insurance. **The government did not pay any premiums towards the employee medical fund.** As a result, a tremendous amount of monies was saved over the past two years by government.

How can government justify their actions and still hope to maintain a cohesive working environment for their employees when trust has been tampered with and promises broken? How has it come to pass that their mindset is focused on utter disregard for those employees who have shown their commitment towards their employers through their years of service and have gained public trust?

In closing, the committee must weigh all incoming testimonies as acts of faith that will culminate in restraining these Bills which would ultimately create chaos in the lives of their devoted employees.

Sincerely,  
Juelle Kaluhiwa  
City & County  
Dept of Planning and Permitting, Building Division

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** patchoy@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:51 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony; Rep. Marcus Oshiro  
**Subject:** HB 1715, 1719, 1723, 1725, 1727

I am opposed to the following bills:

HB1715, HB1719, HB1723, HB1725, HB1727.

I'm very much opposed to any bill that takes away from medical, dental, vision, and retirement benefits. You cannot change the rules in the middle of the game. If you want to decrease these benefits it should be for new hires, not those who have been working for many years. We work hard for the state, this is not how you treat your employees.

Patrick Choy  
384-3029

## **yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Godoy, Jocelyn [jgodoy@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:16 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Hearings

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Jocelyn G. Godoy. As a public employee for 2 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1723, HB 1715, HB1726, HB 1727, HB 1106, HB 1718, HB 1719, and 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 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 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 promised 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 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.

*Aloha,*

*Jocelyn G. Godoy*  
*City & County of Honolulu*  
*Department of Planning and Permitting*

## yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** Barbara Watanabe [worm1959@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:20 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1536,HB1106,HB1718,HB1719,HB1725,HB1723,HB1715,HB1726,HB1727

Hi, my name is Barbara Watanabe and I live in on the island of Maui. I work for the County of Maui and my husband Richard is a local farmer for over 30 years. We have raised 3 children 2 of which are still in college.

I spend money at local businesses every day to buy food, clothing and other needs. I have always done this to support the local families with businesses like my husband. If the local community doesn't help each who will.

I decided to work for the county, besides having children going to college, due to the fact the county had wonderful benefits. Even though the pay was less than the private sector, it was off set with the benefit package.

I know times are hard. I have watched the expenses to run our home as well as our farm continues to increase with no end in sight. There are many different areas for the House to look at to help with the expenses without touching the benefits of state and county employees I feel you are putting a very big burden on the public employees. We are the back bone of the government.

I know the the public employees will probably not yet raises. Yet to find out there are bills to either take away benefits or increase the cost of the benefits on to the employees is very disheartening. Money is tight for everyone. I for one know my family can not survive now or when I retire if these bills pass. It is a burden to great especially now.

There are many areas that can and should be cut first. Like the private sector, maybe the "executives" and their benefits should be cut first. Why does private and public sector always think of cutting the bottom of their employee before the top. The top is where most of the money is being spent. This has been shown to be true, examples being the car industry, the banking industries.

Please look into other areas and leave the benefits to the public employees alone.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Watanabe

## **yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Linda\_Rivera/LEIHOKU/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:40 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Broken Trust

Hi, my name is Linda Rivera and I live on the Island of Oahu. I work for Leihoku Elementary School as a clerk-typist/registrar 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 object to this legislation on the basis that it is an issue of "Broken Trust" between the State of Hawaii and their employees. As an employee who entered service 20 years ago, I understood that as a result of negotiations between the State of Hawaii and its public employee unions, that I would receive certain retirement benefits, which medical coverage was a part of. 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. Now suddenly, rules of the game change. Are agreements no longer honored? Or are we still a society and nation of integrity and trust, where we honor and uphold commitments made?

I think it's wrong for representatives to take these benefits away from me. I oppose HB 1719, 1106, 1718, 1725, 1723, 1715, 1726, 1727. I appeal to your sense of fairness, trust, respect, responsibility, and honor. Please do not support any of the House Bills as mention above, or any other legislation that undermines commitments and responsibilities made decades ago to public employees.

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.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Linda Rivera  
84-490 Makaha Vly. Rd.  
Waianae, HI 96792

Ph: 497-2847

Chau Le

yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** Le, Chau [Chau.Le@doh.hawaii.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:29 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Proposed Bills

Dear House representatives on the Labor Committee:

I am writing to you today because I could not be present at the hearings being held on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009, for proposed Hawaii bills:

HB1536 - Freezing salaries of Governor, Lt Governor  
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 understand that our economy is bad, and that we must all take cuts in order to help balance the budget. Honestly, though, I can't see how cutting our benefits will help us in the long run. I am a fairly recent employee with the state, and I am still young, and even though some of the bills will not affect me for a long time, it does not mean I am not concerned about them. Most public employees do not get paid very highly. Compared to the private sector, most of us get paid very minimally. On top of that, the cost of living in Hawaii is not cheap. Thus, one of the incentives for public employees to remain with the state is because of the benefits. HB 1725 and 1727 would affect me immediately. I have systemic lupus with symptoms of nephritis, rheumatoid arthritis, dermatitis, fibromyalgia, Reynaud's syndrome, and more. Although I am young and active, it's my prescription, medical, dental, and vision benefits that keep me that way. Every month, the cost of my prescriptions alone is over \$1000. If I did not have prescription coverage, I could not afford my medication. Without medication, I would not be able to function. If I can't work, then I will have to apply for disability. I am 28 years old; I would prefer it if I were not dependent on disability benefits. I have a lot to contribute, and I want to do it. I just can't without certain things, like medication and healthcare. Lupus is a debilitating disease that requires a lot of maintenance. Part of that maintenance includes having a great team of doctors like ophthalmologists and dentists to oversee my health.

Also, addressing HB 1106, 1718, 1719, 1723, and 1726: I think it is unacceptable for the state to withdraw once-promised benefits to public employees. Some of these people have worked most of their lives for the State of HI, hoping that if they can hang in long enough, they will be able to retire and be taken care of. They signed contracts and were made to believe the state would keep its promise to them. For those benefits to be withdrawn now, especially for those who have no choice but to retire in a few years, due to age, would be unfair and intolerable.

How can lawmakers happily look forward to a 36% increase in their salaries this year, when a lot of people worse off are supposed to get their benefits cut? Please reconsider this. Everyone wants to make more money, but in light of the economy and budget cuts, can we afford to give a 36% raise to people that are probably living comfortably? I am pleading with you to not take away our health benefits; instead, please look elsewhere for extra funds. There are many highly qualified people that work for the public sector, and if you take away our benefits, we will have to find work elsewhere. I for one, cannot remain with the state if I no longer am able to sustain my health. At least the executives that are getting paid well can afford health care. Shouldn't we all at least get the insurance of our health?

Sincerely,

Chau Le

## yamashita1- Kathy

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**From:** carole carvalho [pakewoman@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:38 PM  
**To:** Rep. Mark Nakashima; LABtestimony  
**Subject:** House Bills proposed for Hearing

Respectfully submit testimony with regard to the above.

Chair Rhoads, vice chair Yamashita, Rep. Mark Nakashima and members of the committee:

It appears that government workers have been targeted to be a scapegoat and a primary target to solve the current fiscal woes that our state is experiencing. I have been a county employee for almost twelve years and cannot help but feel that Speaker Say's introductions of certain House Bills relegates my public service to a status of a person with no identity, a person of no consequence. These bills are in essence attacking my right to life; the "wholeness" of it is in question.

It is not only proposing to take away essential and critical benefits previously contractually agreed upon, it is pronouncing, without saying, that our state government can give and take away at whim; or, at least initiate legislation to. It gives the appearance and perpetuates a sense of hopelessness and loss of control within our State Government; visually, a cutting and slashing of the "legs and arms" of a body that in reality cannot function without its parts; something totally opposite to the idea of what our new President is promoting.

Ludicrously it proposes health care without providing vision, dental and prescription coverage for six years! Does it serve to hear a doctor diagnose you with cancer only to face a reality that you cannot afford the medication to combat the disease? It meanders into areas where literally lives will be affected and altered based on unsubstantiated prediction, overwhelming dependence on Medicare and conjecture. Even those employees in the private sector are offered better health care than that!

Please vote "no" on all of these bills that take away benefits from public employees:  
HB 1106, 1718, 1719, 1725, 1723, 1715, 1726, 1727.

Carole Carvalho  
Police Operations Clerk, Hawaii Police Dept.  
Hawaii County  
HGEA member, BU 3

The United States Declaration of Independence, which was primarily written by Thomas Jefferson, was adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. The text of the second section of the Declaration of Independence reads:

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

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**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Kim Williamson [kwilliamson143@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:39 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1723 and HB1719; also HB1725 and HB1727

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Kim Williamson and I am a teacher on the Big Island. The current state of the economy is dire, but through careful management during these times of crisis, we will get through. To that end, each of you have been charged with the heavy duty of finding ways to cut spending and to find a solution to our state's budget shortfall. Inflicting these four bills on the public employees who help to maintain the state as a solution to a hopefully short term problem is a horrible idea.

I moved here two years ago knowing that it was expensive to live in paradise, but it was a sacrifice my wife and I were willing to make. Our salaries barely cover our needs now and we are OK with that. Both of us came to education knowing that we would not become wealthy in these careers, but we do expect that we will have a salary that we can live with and that we will eventually be able to retire with some assurance from our employer that we will have something for our old age. By taking away our dental, vision, and prescription benefits, we could not afford to pay for them ourselves.

I write to you today in hopes that you will not pass these bills from committee. Would cutting these items provide money to the state? Absolutely - this is almost irrefutable. However, the pain that would be inflicted on people who provide the most back to the state is also incalculable. As a teacher, I know it is hard to attract and keep people in this profession; taking away basic insurance will make it that much harder.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kim Williamson  
PO Box 1416  
Hilo, HI 96721  
(mailing address)

11-1732 Akala Road  
Mountain View, HI 96771  
(Physical Address)

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Laura\_Walker/KAUH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:31 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** kill bills 1723, 1719, 1725, & 1727

To whom it Concerns,

I need you to know that I am a DOE employee ( School Counselor) and I strongly oppose bills 1723, 1719, 1725, & 1727 which will cut our benefits for vision, dental, drug so that we will have to pay the FULL premium on our own, and pay for 50% of our health coverage. The bills also propose that NO coverage will be given to retirees no matter when you were hired or how long you have worked. If these bills pass, it will cost each employee a chunk of our paycheck to retain our current coverage. As a single parent I am barely making ends meet as it is.

Mahalo,

Laura Walker

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Liane\_Takara/MAEMAE/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:58 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Bills 1719, 1723, 1725, 1727

Dear Karl Rhoades,

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bills 1719, 1723, 1725, 1727.

I have been a teacher in Hawaii for 30 years. These bills will have a negative impact on my retirement income after serving and dedicating myself to educating young children for so many years.

I hope that we will be able to retain our medical benefits.

Thank you,

Liane Takara

## **yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Leah Tau [ltau@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 3:48 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony against "take away" bills

Aloha,

My name is Leah Tau and I am a member of HGEA. I am writing to you today to ask for your help in putting a stop to the unfair bills that have been brought to the table by Representative Calvin Say. It is without a doubt one of the worst things our state government can do to it's working people.

I am a teacher and a tax payer. I am on the low end of the pay scale, but I love my job because it allows me to make a difference in the lives of Hawaii's youth. If these bills come to pass, I will be forced to quit my job and find work in the private sector. I simply will not be able to sustain a decent life for my family if my medical benefits are cut in half and other things like drug, dental and vision are being slashed. Both my husband and I work at jobs that give back to the community. My husband is a social worker for a non profit organization. We didn't pick these jobs for the money, but we've been able to live knowing our benefits will keep our family safe and healthy. We don't feel there is any justification for these cuts at this level of the work force.

Our family has followed President Obama's latest push to pass his economic plan very closely. We listen to his words and see his action and they provide us with hope that working Americans will finally get a hand up instead of a push down. Then, in our very own state, we see what we've always seen; the continuous cycle of abuse on the working class. It's amazing that at the highest levels of our government change is occurring, yet here in Hawaii it's as if nothing has changed.

Please support me and my fellow co-workers and do not allow these bills to pass. I understand that these economic times are critical. But cutting benefits from state and county employees does not equal "sharing the load."

Thank you,

Leah Tau

**Bills:**

- HB1725 – Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF;
- HB1723 – Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable;
- HB1715 – Increase, for new employees, the age and service time requirement to retire;
- HB1726 – Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits;
- HB1727 – Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Karen Magno [kmt808@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 4:01 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725,1723,1715,1726

Aloha,

I'm a taxpayer, a member of the HGEA, and a supporter of local businesses. It is unfair that you are looking for ways to balance the budget by taking it out on the public employees. We work hard for what benefits we have as public servants. We know that we don't earn as much as the public sector, but the retirement and health benefits are some of the reasons why we keep going to work each and every day. Please don't take these benefits away from us! Many of us are already struggling to make ends meet. If our benefits are cut, we may be a burden to the government in other ways.

Maybe raising the excise tax might be a more fairer way to spread the burden of this major budget shortfall.

Respectfully,  
Karen Magno

## yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** Colin\_Maglasang/LIKELIKE/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 12:23 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** Rep. Calvin Say  
**Subject:** Please vote NO on these bills

Hi There,

I want to express my opposition to the following 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;

HB 1726 - Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits;

HB 1727 - Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage.

In 1991, I quit working as a cook at Prince Kuhio Hotel to enter the State as a cafeteria helper. I ended up losing \$6.25 (from \$14.75 to \$8.25) an hour just to do this. My reason for taking such a drastic cut in pay? for the benefits, when I finally can retire.

To change these benefits now would be like playing a game of football and in the middle of the game have the referees change the rules. not fair to the participants. I understand that the State needs to save money, but please look somewhere else. we (State Employees) already lost close to \$3 BILLION from the down turn in the economy in ERS funds, and now we gotta suck it up and lose some of our hard earned benefits too? not fair! In my humble opinion, making changes to the new incoming State employees benefits would be OK as long as it is explained to them when hired. Please vote NO on the above House Bills. Thank You for taking the time to read my e-mail. please feel free to contact me.

Colin Maglasang  
2234 Kauhana St.  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
Ph. (808)735-5461

PS - to Calvin Say: As a constituent from your district and a LOYAL Calvin Say supporter, I am shocked that you proposed such measures. I understand that we as a State, need to take drastic measures, but to take these things away from us?

If you truly believe that "everything should be on the table", why not propose selling the very valuable land under the Palolo Housing on Ahé street and New Jersey Ave. and moving the tenants to more affordable land (like the Leeward Coast). this would have a two fold effect,

- 1) profit from the sale and subsequent purchase of cheaper land, and
- 2) Palolo real estate value goes up and the property taxes goes up as well, generating more funds for the City AND State. remember "everything should be on the table". Think about it!

I am writing in opposition to the following 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 a constituent who has been employed by the Dept. of Health for 10 years. Prior to joining the state, I worked in the real estate industry. I returned to graduate school at 40 to re-train as a professional social worker because I wanted to make a difference in the lives of folks less fortunate than myself.

Starting in 1999 I worked as a social worker for the Dept. of Public Safety. I assisted adult offenders in gaining parole. Since 2002 I have been working at Hawaii State Hospital as a forensic social worker. I act as a liaison between the psychiatric staff at the hospital and the Courts. My role is to effectuate timely legal resolution and discharge for patients committed to the hospital. At a cost \$ 800.00 per day per patient at HI state hospital, I save state government much more than my \$50,000 salary and benefits by getting patients who no longer need hospitalization out and into less expensive placements.

These are tough jobs that require experience, skill and judgment and I earn my benefits and salary. I am in opposition to any reduction or adjustment to my compensation. I believe it is unfair to expect the Hawaii Labor Union members to rescue the entire state economy. The minority opinion that state workers are over compensated for simple jobs is a fraud.

Howard W. Smith, LSW, CSAC

## **yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Kim\_Amodo/LIKELIKE/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:22 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1723 and HB1719; also HB1725 and HB1727

My name is Kim Yen Amodo. I am writing to oppose bills HB1723 and HB1719; also HB1725 and HB1727. These bills will cause hardship on my family financially! We just bought a house, had a baby. Therefore money is really tight especially on a teacher's salary.

Having to pay more for med. needs will cause more financial hardship on use. Everything is already so expensive in Hawaii and now this!!!! Please do NOT pass this bill!

I never thought that getting a masters degree in education will put me in a predicament of being 1 paycheck away from being homeless. That is pretty sad!

NO to HB1723 and HB1719; also HB1725 and HB1727!!!!!!!!

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:25 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** pharperhi@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1725

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Paul Harper  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 576 Kuikahi Drive Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
Phone: 808-250-2922  
E-mail: [pharperhi@yahoo.com](mailto:pharperhi@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

Comments:  
February 12, 2009

To the Honorable Representatives of the COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino    Rep. Mark M. Nakashima  
Rep. Karen Leinani Awana    Rep. Scott K. Saiki  
Rep. Faye P. Hanohano    Rep. Joseph M. Souki  
Rep. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran    Rep. Roy M. Takumi  
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee    Rep. Kymberly Marcos Pine

Re: Testimony for February 13, 2009

Call to urge No on HBs 1718, 1719 and 1725

I am in strong opposition of the following HBs due to their negative impact on health benefits of state employees and retirees. Firstly, this will encourage many capable workforce employees into early retirement within fields that are already under-staffed, such as healthcare employees. Secondly, it will further the burden of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation to provide care to patients that will no longer have adequate healthcare insurance and access to preventative services. As a healthcare employee, these measures seem short-sighted and merely shift fiscal burdens to different branches of the same state government.

Paul Harper, RN  
576 Kuikahi Drive  
Wailuku, Hawaii, 96793

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:27 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** jjdesign@wave.hicv.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1725

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Harvey Place  
Organization: county of Maui employee  
Address: PO Box 1221 Kaunakakai, HI 96748  
Phone: 8085588450  
E-mail: [jjdesign@wave.hicv.net](mailto:jjdesign@wave.hicv.net)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

**Comments:**

No I won't be there because I will be too busy keeping the machines going while you guys get pay raises and hold on to your benefits. Leave mine alone.

harvey place

## yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** paul yonamine [ptyona@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:32 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 17818,1719,1725,1723,1715,and 1727

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Paul Yonamine\_\_\_\_. As a public employee for \_17\_ years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1718 ,1719,1725,1723,1715,1727.\_\_\_\_\_ 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 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.

## yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** carl.j.brito@hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:33 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1106/1719/1725

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Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita & Committee members, I like yourselves am a public servant. I have been in the business for 25 years w/ the Department of Transportation. Prior to this I served my country in the United States Army for 7 years for which I utilized my body & mind to help ensure every citizens right to live by this country's Constitution. I chose & accepted this course in my life to which I have no regrets, regardless of my true beliefs, convictions & especially of what I experienced as a servant to our Commander & Chief. I truly believed I made a difference in shaping this country even through its "up's & down's". I guess my reward for my endeavors was to secure employment w/ this State of Hawaii thanks to hard work & sacrifice. I started w/ the Highways Division in year 1984 & transferred to Airports in year 1988. In year 2003 I became the Airport Operations & Maintenance Worker Supervisor @ Molokai Airport. Again I chose & accepted this path for what it stood for @ the time, a chance to be a productive citizen, raise a family & make a difference. Myself & my family struggles like anyone else especially during these harsh economic times, however I am finding it extremely difficult to believe our States Leaders are attempting to "dismantle" the very fabric that has been keeping the System afloat throughout the years. I have been personally doing WAY MORE for LESS for quite a number of years. This method of survival is getting pretty old to be honest. Mind you I still LOVE what I do for this fine State of Hawaii, but if my sacrifices have been for not & I lose my house, pull kids from college, lose health benefits, etc then so be it. I hope you accept these choices you make for us & can honestly say you have no regrets in doing so. In closing I must say that I do not support HB 1106/1719/1725 for obvious reasons.

Sincerely, Carl J. Brito, AOM-III, DOT-A

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** James Bush [luakaha@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 12:26 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Labor Bills Introduced by Speaker Calvin Say

February 12, 2009

**Hawaii State House of Representatives, Labor & Public Employment Committee**

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

My name is James Bush. I am a retired insurance executive. I am not a union member. I am a supporter of businesses and families in Hawaii.

I am concerned about the impact of the following bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say.

- HB1536 - Freezing salaries of Governor, Lt Governor
- 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

While all of our citizens recognize our State is facing a sizable deficit in the next several years, I believe the proposals set forth in this proposed legislation may not produce the desired results of reducing the looming budget shortfalls.

Our State employees constitute a sizable portion of Hawaii's labor force. Their earnings and benefits, therefore, have a direct effect on our economy through a "Multiplier" effect. Each dollar earned and spent by state employees in our communities and local businesses is multiplied many times. Reducing these dollars paid will have a serious long term multiplier effect on State revenues.

In the case of my Daughter and Son-in-Law (both Government employees), these bills would drastically affect their ability to survive and would certainly cause their spending in our community to be drastically reduced.

Both provide vital services (public safety and education). One is seriously ill.

The changes in benefits proposed would be catastrophic for their family and seriously detract from their ability to provide continuing service, now and in the future.

At a time when Hawaii is facing reduced tax revenues from businesses, these bills would further reduce the viability of our local business community

thereby further reducing State tax revenues and casting serious doubt of the future survival of families and businesses.

One day, when this crises in the State budget has passed, Hawaii will need a solid business and family base to build upon once again.

We do and will need valued State employees to ensure services to support our industry and tourism.

I ask you to consider the proposed bills carefully in a broad long term context rather than just a short term "Knee jerk" reaction.

Please do not over react to the State's current projections for a budget shortfall. Help for Hawaii in the form of two billion dollars from the Federal

stimulus package (As reported in today's news) may go a long way towards alleviating many of our currently perceived problems.

Please, lets not burn of our bridges by crippling our government workers and their services. Let's invest in the long term viability of Hawaii.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

James B. Bush, Jr. P.O. BOX 278, VOLCANO, HAWAII 96785

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:22 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** jjdesign@wave.hicv.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1725

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Janet Place  
Organization: Individual  
Address: PO Box 1221 Kaunakakai, HI 96748  
Phone: 8085588450  
E-mail: [jjdesign@wave.hicv.net](mailto:jjdesign@wave.hicv.net)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

**Comments:**

When you decide to take a pay cut and have your benefits screwed, then you can think about doing it to others

jan place

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Rowena Estores [reestores@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 12:58 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1718, 1719, 1723, 1725, 1727 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

My name is Rowena Estores and I am a speech/language pathologist in Leeward District and I strongly oppose HB 1719 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. I also oppose HB 1718, 1723, 1725, & 1727 which would further cut benefits to state and county employees.

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

The State of Hawaii Department of Education has already had several lawsuits regarding the provision of special education and related services. The bills in the legislature would discourage possible hires from seeking employment as a state employee. This would further increase the shortage of speech/language pathologists which would affect the state's ability to provide federally mandated special education services to Hawaii's students.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Rowena Estores  
Speech/Language Pathologist  
State of Hawaii  
Department of Education  
Leeward District

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Pamela Morinaga. As a dedicated public employee, I have worked 29 years helping special education students. I am close to retirement and am very upset that the Legislature can take away many of the benefits I have worked for. I do realize that the State has to make budget cuts, therefore I am writing in opposition of a few House Bills, and not all that have been introduced by Representative Say that would impact public employees health/retirement benefits.

I am highly opposed to HB 1719. I am a single person so have no option but to go with one of the state retirement health plans. One of the benefits of working for the state at a lower paying job in comparison to the private sector, is the health fund benefits. My plans for retirement have been based on the fact that the health plan premium is paid by the employer after retirement. But, now HB 1719 makes a DRASTIC change- the employee paying the ENTIRE premium. Even as a active employee, I pay only part of the premium.

Although I was not planning on retiring for several more years. I am now seriously looking into retiring before July 1, 2009.

**I am opposed to HB1719, HB1725, HB 1727.** I am not able to attend the sessions when the bills will be heard because I will be working with my students.

Thank you for your time and attention to this grave concern,  
Pamela Morinaga, 2/12/2008

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Queenie [queeniekp@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 12:56 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** testing

Elaine K. Pezario  
Office Assistant IV/ SOH-DOD  
Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, February 13, 8:30 am

HB 1718  
HB 1719  
HB1725

Please vote NO on these bills. Don't take away our benefits. Cutting our benefits and other measures may cause more hardship in our economy and more fore-closure. We government employees contribute our moneys back into the community. Do not seek to balance the budget at the expense of the state employees. I understand the budget challenges that presents challenges to ALL citizens of Hawaii. Furloughs and other employment actions may result in a reduction of income would have a greater negative impact in our economy. Please continue to stand by your commitment that any changes to retirement benefits must be for prospective employees and NOT negatively impact current retirees. Please continue to work to insure that NO such action takes place. Please find a reasonable solution that would not PENALIZE or ALIENATE any particular segment of the population.

Please keep my thoughts in mind as you deliberate these issues.

Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono  
The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness

## yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** Donabelle.B.Diego@hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 12:57 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony against bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say; RE: State Employees

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony this morning.

My name is Donabelle Diego.

As a public employee for 6 years, I am deeply distressed by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically:

### **HB 1106 - Furloughing employees**

Can you imagine what's going to happen to me and my family if I get laid off from my job, or salary reduced in this very critical time? It is hugely disruptive at this 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? This is the only job I have. We have a mortgage to pay and we are living in the most modest way we can. My husband's and my salary is just enough to pay for mortgage and not even sufficient to buy the things we most need in our everyday life. **We have a 5-year old son. And my elderly parents live with me.** If I lose my job, we will not have enough money to pay for mortgage, buy food and other things we need to survive. We will end up homeless and hungry. Maybe, you can not feel the worry and fright, we ordinary people feel. My family does not have too much. We only have less than enough. What will happen to us if I get laid off, or salary is reduced? We will suffer and will become homeless. Can't you please think of another way to alleviate this crisis, instead of jolting us out of our jobs, or reducing our salaries? I am a public servant and I am doing all my best to be the best that I can be. Please, think about being in our situation. Don't you have families to worry about? Don't you have a child that you care about? Please, please think about it.

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

**HB 1725 - Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF; &**

**HB 1727 - Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage**

This economic crisis shouldn't be resolved by sacrificing the health and well being of me and my family. These bills, coupled with talk of salary cuts, rises in our premiums is like a death sentence for our elderly, sick, or recovering public workers and retirees. This is literally a bill that is playing with the life and death of public workers and their families. It will deter some employees and retirees from accessing medicines and healthcare that are essential to long and healthy lives. These are regressive bills when the rest of the nation is talking about improvements to our health care coverage. This will be a huge burden to all of us, especially to the elderly and those who have kids like me.

February 12, 2009

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony. My name is Skylane K. Ishibashi. I am a husband and father of 7 and the sole provider for my family. I have been a public employee for nearly 9 years and have also been required to maintain a 2<sup>nd</sup> job for 9 years as well just to get by.

I am extremely disappointed by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1106, HB 1719, and HB 1725.

HB 1106 --Speaker Say has said that a furlough would cause the "least amount of disruption to public service." However, a reduction in salaries will be an enormous disruption for families at a time when many are losing jobs and a sole breadwinner for entire families is becoming more frequent.

HB 1719 --is also a concern for me. As a mental health therapist, I can earn a much higher salary working for a private agency, however, I chose to work for less pay as a civil servant to be able to count on a safe retirement, and this is the case for many civil servants. Speaker Say's bill is sending a strong message telling us that public employees don't mean much and promises to us can be broken mid-stream. This bill is an obvious attempt to force people into early retirement. Plans I have made to ensure that my children graduate 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.

Balancing the budget should not be resolved by sacrificing the health and well being of me and my family. 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. With rising cost of living, basic medications when needed is already difficult to acquire, this bill, coupled with talk of salary cuts and rises in our premiums is like a death sentence for not just our elderly, sick, or recovering public workers and retirees, but for many young families as well. It will deter many families from accessing medicine that is essential to living 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 and their families.

Skylane K. Ishibashi, MA  
School Based Behavioral Health Therapist, Keaau High School  
HCR2 Box 6064  
Keaau, Hi  
96749

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Marilyn Anderson. As a public employee for 19 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. HB1106; HB1718; HB1719; HB1725; 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. Especially since my husband has past away and I have 15 & 12 year old children. How will I provide them to go to college so they can have the opportunity to find a good paying job? 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.

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**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.**

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** kauaiboy4200@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 12:27 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** House Bills targeting public employees - VOTE NO

Aloha:

My name is Joseph Savino and I live on Kauai. I work for the Fifth Circuit Court as an Adult Probation Officer for the State of Hawaii 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 basic 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.

Therefore, I **STRONGLY** urge you to **VOTE NO** on HB1106, 1108, 1715, 1718, 1719, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1725, and 1727. These bills introduced by House Speaker Say are a travesty. I always believed that Democrats in particular represent the working people and support workers and unions. House Speaker Say is proving otherwise.

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. Also, consider a lottery as a form of legalized gambling or increase "sin" taxes (liquor and cigarettes).

Mahalo!  
Joseph A. Savino

PO BOX 390  
Kaunakani, HI 96747  
808-652-6195

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**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Angela\_Kila/LEIHOKU/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 12:20 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** benefils cuts

As a state employee, I OPPOSE all the bills against public employees: bills 1723, 1719, 1725 & 1727.

**I don't know who would even consider doing this, why are you folks targeting the "public" employees, I should be for the entire statewide, public or private. I pay my medical now, I can't afford it, I just dont want to go on quest or any other type of walfare medical, I pinch here and there to make it. I can not see myself when it comes time for me to retire on my low income to pay for medical....."CRAZY" I know of many that will be retiring, and this will hit them hard, your suppose to enjoy retirement.**

**Don't do it!**

Angela Kila  
Leihoku Elementary School  
Health Aide  
Ph: 697-7106  
Fax: 697-7142

## **yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Juvy Abad [juvster70@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:59 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Juvy Abad. As a public employee for 19 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB1106, HB1719, HB1725, HB 1723, HB1715, 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 HB1106. 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 Hawaii at risk. State programs that protect Hawaii'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 Hawaii.

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 coverage. I myself is on medication to control my diabetes and cholesterol.

---

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

**From:** Charlotte\_Collord/KEONEPOKO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 12:19 PM  
**To:** Rep. Faye Hanohano; Rep. Mark Nakashima  
**Cc:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** please vote NO on HB1723, HB1715, HB1726, HB1727,HB1718, HB1719, HB1725, and HB110

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Aloha, my name is Charlotte Collord and I live in your district and voted for you.

I work for Keonepoko Elementary School and am a member of HSTA. I have worked as a teacher on the Big Island for the last 18 years.

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. I am urging you to vote "NO" on HB1723, HB1715, HB1726, HB1727,HB1718, HB1719, HB1725, and HB1106.

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.

Thank you,  
Charlotte Collord

## yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** Joyce Kuniyuki [jkuniyuki@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 2:46 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** balancing the budget

I work as an educational assistant for the Department of Education and it is a job that I truly enjoy. I am very dedicated to my career/job and work hard at it because I know that my efforts do make a difference to the children at our school. My paycheck is not large therefore I do depend on the benefits (health and others) to help get by with Hawaii's high cost of living. While I realize that Hawaii's economy is in dire straits, please do not try to balance the budget by taking away our pay/benefits. With the cost of everything going up, more than ever I need to retain my pay and benefits.

Please vote NO on HD 1725, 1723, 1715, 1726, and 1727.

My husband and I are not rich monetarily and we try not to be frivolous in our spending. I feel as if we "little people" are bearing the brunt of the burden. This will affect our whole family and will therefore affect our community and state as well.

Please consider our concerns and find other ways to balance the budget.

Thank you,

Joyce Kuniyuki

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**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 2:34 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** hall6115@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725 on 2/17/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/17/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1725

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: michael hall  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 95-1042 kuauli st. #160 mililani , hi. 96789  
Phone: 808-479-4478  
E-mail: [hall6115@yahoo.com](mailto:hall6115@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/14/2009

**Comments:**

Aloha, my name is Michael Hall. I work for the City & County of Honolulu. I am opposed to the following bills-HB-1725, HB-1723, HB-1726, HB-1727. I have worked for the City for over 27 years. I could have earned more money in the private sector, but I stayed with the City because of the medical and retirement benefits. I feel it is very unfair to change the rules this late in the game. If you want to change the rules for new hires, thats one thing because they would know what they're getting into before they spend their whole life working for the government.

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Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Labor and Public Employees

Scheduled Hearing: Tuesday, February 17, 2009, 8:30 am, State Capitol  
Conference Room 309

**Opposed to:**

HB1725 – Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF;  
HB1723 – Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable;  
HB1726 – Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits;  
HB1727 – Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage.

I am a state employee with more than 30 years of service but am only 56 years old. These bills are highly unprincipled and severely affect employees close to retirement. I have counted on the retirement benefits offered by the state and had planned to work until age 62. At this point, I am seriously considering retiring now to avoid loss of benefits.

These bills discriminate against long-time government employees who have served the public for decades. If cost-cutting measures are to be implemented, then the change of benefits should start with any new employees starting July 1, 2009.

I am willing to take a 10% pay cut or one day furlough, but do not agree to the changes in retirement benefits starting July 1, 2009.

Many other long-time employees who are in similar situations as I am are also planning to retire now to avoid the decrease in retirement benefits starting July 1, 2009. The government will be left with hundreds, if not thousands of vacant positions. Highly skilled employees along with institutional memory will be lost. The government will be hard-pressed to replace the retired employees.

Based on the reasons state above, I ask that the bills, HB1725, HB1723, HB 1726, HB1727, not be passed out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kit Uyeda  
98-331 Kilihe Way  
Aiea, HI 96701  
Ph: 488-4622

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 1:12 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** kukana77@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725 on 2/17/2009 8:30:00 AM  
**Attachments:** sampletestimony[1].pdf

Testimony for LAB 2/17/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1725

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Susan Lee  
Organization: HGEA  
Address: 207 Nenu Street Honolulu, HI  
Phone: 808-382-6609  
E-mail: [kukana77@yahoo.com](mailto:kukana77@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/14/2009

**Comments:**

I oopose Bills HB 1725, 1723, 1715, 1726, 1727. We as a state are in this economic hardship together, do not take benefits away from only one sector of government. A exise tax increase would be fairer for all.

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,

**Lee R. Mainaga**  
County of Maui

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** Zenaida\_Sawyer/KEONEPOKO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:59 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony; Rep. Faye Hanohano; Rep. Mark Nakashima  
**Subject:** please vote NO on HB1723, HB1715, HB1726, HB1727,HB1718, HB1719, HB1725, and HB110

Aloha, my name is Zenaida Sawyer and I live in your district and voted for you.

I work for Keonepoko Elementary School and am a member of HSTA. I have worked as a teacher on the Big Island for the last 5 years and another 9 years on Moloka'i for the DOE state system. 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.

I am urging you to vote "NO" on HB1723, HB1715, HB1726, HB1727,HB1718, HB1719, HB1725, and HB1106.

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 no kokua mau ia 'oukou,  
Zenaida Sawyer

## **yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** rhoads3-Christine on behalf of Rep. Karl Rhoads  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:59 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: Regarding benefits for state employees

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

**From:** dawn [mailto:dkinhi@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:16 AM  
**To:** Rep. Karl Rhoads  
**Subject:** Regarding benefits for state employees

Please vote no on HB1723, HB 1715, HB 1726, HB 1727, HB 1106, HB1718, HB 1719, and HB 1725. These are bills that will reduce benefits I will eventually receive when I retire. These benefits are the reason I became a State employee. We are already expected to do more with less people. Our case loads are increasing, vacant positions are frozen, and we are still expected to complete our jobs accurately. DHS has gotten Food Stamp Performance Awards, my department has actually brought money into the budget. Morale is already low and now you want to take away and/or lower our benefits. The benefits are the only reason most of us stay, we put up with bad situations because there is a reward when we retire. Don't lower and/or take away our benefits.

Thank you for your time and hard work,  
Dawn Kutaka  
DHS employee

## **yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Tasia\_Cordeiro/CAMPBELL/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:54 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Health and retirement benefits

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony. My name is Tasia-Lyn Cordeiro. As a public employee and a member of HGEA, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1106, 1718, 1719, 1725, 1726, 1727.

I'm also a taxpayer. I spend money at local businesses every day to buy food, clothing and other needs for my family as well as myself. I pose this question to the Speaker: What about the disruption to us as residents of this state? A freeze 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 health benefits and retirement when we are some of the last remaining wage earners in this unstable economy? The Governor does not have the authority to unilaterally furlough state employees.

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

HB 1719 is also a 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. 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 don't believe it's fair for the House to look 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 health benefits and retirement for myself and for my family.

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

So 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 through these tough economic times.

Thank you,  
Tasia-Lyn Cordeiro

**From:** Marieta Vanderwatt [mvanderwatt@hhsc.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 12:01 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Bills Friday and Tuesday

As a state employee I do not support bill HB1725 or HB1727. Although not often used, as a single mother this is important coverage for myself and my child. Thank you for your consideration. Marieta van der Watt

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**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** moi261@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 12:08 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** House Bills 1725 & 1727 and all bills relating to public employees/beneficiaries

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Audrey Gail Caires, and I am a resident of Maui. As a public employee for 33 years/2 months, and now retired, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1725 and 1727.

House Bill 1725 designating the ENTIRE burden of prescription drug coverage to employees/beneficiaries will truly play on the life of my immediate family. My husband came very close to losing his life on Jan. 7, 2009 due to renal failure. He made it through after substantial hospitalization and is now on kidney dialysis. He requires numerous medications to get through each day. For the state legislators to request prohibiting payments to the health fund is certain to bankrupt my husband and me. He will not make it without his medications.

Our new president, B. Obama, has talked about the health care coverage of this country and yet you are trying your level best to give those of us who are older and retired more stress than we need to deal with this issue while attempting to cope with illnesses by wanting to pass this take-away.

House Bill 1727 designating the ENTIRE burden of vision and dental coverage to employee/beneficiaries will adversely affect us further and keep us from obtaining the proper care for these health areas.

As a State employee for those 33+ years (at the same agency), I knew my salary would never be comparable to what might have been made outside of State government; yet, I believed I could make a difference in terms of service to the public. I also believed I would be able to look forward to a safe retirement, with these health premiums as part of my retirement package and thank you for years rendered to that faithful service.

YOU WILL DEFINITELY DISCOUNT AND THROW OUT THE WINDOW MY 33 YEARS OF SERVICE and the years of service of my colleagues WITH THE STROKE OF A PEN IF YOU CHOOSE TO PASS THESE BILLS.

I IMPLORE YOU TO **VOTE NO** on all of these bills that will take away benefits from current and retired employees.

Thank you.

Audrey Gail Caires/Maui (State) Retiree

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**From:** EBatalona@dhs.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:29 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HEALTH & RETIREMENT BENEFITS

I WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY TESTIMONY TO THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

I OPPOSE THE PROPOSED BILLS THAT SPEAKER CALVIN SAY HAD INTRODUCED THAT WILL REDUCE OUR HEALTH AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS.

THE LEGISLATORS CANNOT BALANCE THE STATE BUDGETS ON OUR BACKS.

I REFUSE TO BE TARGETED FROM THESE BILLS THAT THE LEGISLATORS WANT TO PROPOSE.

I FEEL THAT THE LEGISLATORS SHOULDN'T BAIL OUT OUR ECONOMY BY TAKING AWAY HARD-EARNED BENEFITS FROM PUBLIC EMPLOYEES.

THESE ARE THE FOLLOWING BILLS THAT WILL BE AT RISK:

HB 1536, 1106, 1718, 1719, 1725, 1723, 1715, 1726 AND 1727.

THANK YOU FOR HEARING AND RECONSIDERING THIS OPPOSITION.

Ened K. Batalona  
Secretary  
East Hawaii Child Welfare Services Unit 70  
75 Aupuni St. Rm. 112  
Hilo, HI 96720  
808-933-0655

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## yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** Hiram Respicio [iograpes@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:22 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** "no" on these bill

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. Hi, my name is Hiram Respicio, I'm a father of four children, and I work for the Honolulu Board of Water Supply for 25 years and am a member of HGEA, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: 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. 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 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 whenever politically convenient.

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 me 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 my family and many others in Hawaii at risk. State programs that protect Hawaii'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.

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 me 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.

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

Thank you,

Hiram Y. Respicio

*Hiram Respicio*

**From:** Guy [kunitakeg003@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:53 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HGEA Health Benefits

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Guy Kunitake. As a public employee for nine (9) years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1723, 1725 and 1727.

I have two (2) young children, ages 11 and 3, and my family depends on me providing health coverage for them. By increasing our medical premiums and burdening us with the total costs of our families prescription drug, dental and vision coverage is creating a hardship on my family that I cannot afford. Although the bill for prescription medication is only temporary, essentially I would not be able to afford prescription medication for six (6) years. As it is now we live paycheck to paycheck and are struggling to make ends meet. My young children will need this coverage to protect them against diseases. I understand the State is facing this economic crisis and am willing to do my share in helping our economy get thru these tough times. I am not against a one (1) day furlough to help the State balance our budget, however a reduction in my salary coupled with the rise in my premiums for my families health coverage would result in taking prescription medication, dental and vision coverage away from my children. I for one cannot burden the additional costs of these Bills and would be hard-pressed to make ends meet. I humbly ask that you not gamble with the lives of my children.

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. By choosing to work for less pay I believed that my medical benefits during my retirement makes my total compensation plan for the State equivalent with the private sector. I am counting on my medical benefits during my retirement and I cannot afford to lose this benefit when I will need it the most.

I do not believe this economic crisis should be resolved by sacrificing the health and well being of me and my family. Please vote "no" on all of these bills that take away medical benefits from my family.

I, Jacob Kawa'a Heffernan, **oppose the following bills** heard on Friday, February 13 and Tuesday, February 17 at 8:30 a.m. State Capitol, Room 309:

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.

**Reasons:**

*"Our committed staff strives, day-in and day-out, to provide timely, efficient and effective programs, services and benefits, for the purpose of achieving the outcomes of empowering those who are the most vulnerable in our State to expand their capacity for self-sufficiency, self determination, independence, healthy choices, quality of life and personal dignity"(Department of Human Services Vision).*

As a new Department of Human Service (DHS) employee and State worker, I believe in being part of a bigger Ohana where something "good" and honorable can continue to be done on a grander scale. Instead of being a private service provider who used to work with a dozen or so families, I can now be part of a service that impacts hundreds to thousands of families statewide. This decision to move into public service was a no-brainer, especially since it used to be common knowledge that the security and benefits were stable. The wages are not competitive, but nevertheless, it was a great decision to join DHS and make it my career to do what I love the most, which is to help others to improve their quality of lives across many challenging areas. I have never worked for an agency or department with a vision which closely matches my own. My fear is that if the aforementioned bills are passed, it will dim DHS' mission in my heart as it will in others tasked with an already difficult, yet rewarding, job to do. When considering likely repercussions in the near future, it is not farfetched to assume public service will be mediocre at best and we will be faced with bigger problems than our current economic crises. Despair and hopelessness will be far more common in our community and among our public/state employees. My hope is that state officials can nurture public and state employees to keep the flame of passion burning brightly in our efforts in positively impacting the community. Opposing the aforementioned bills is a first step in the right direction towards this nurturance that not only the community, but public and state employees need too. Thank you for your time.

With the Utmost Aloha,

Jacob K. Heffernan  
DHS employee

**From:** Andrea\_Chinen/WAIAKEAI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 11:41 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony; Rep. Faye Hanohano; Rep. Mark Nakashima  
**Subject:** HB1715,HB1725,HB1723,HB1726,HB1727,HB1718

Hi, my name is Andrea Chinen and I live in Hawaii District. I work for Waiakea Intermediate School 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.

Thank you,  
Andrea Chinen

**From:** Jane Jamison [kinijamison@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 11:25 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Committee on Labor and Public Employment, Tuesday February 16, 2009, 8:30AM, regarding HB1725

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Jane Jamison, Behavioral Health Specialist, State of Hawaii, Department of Education and a member of HGEA.

As a public employee for over five years years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: **HB1725**.

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.

I am the sole worker for my family with a husband and son who are disabled. My daughter is attending the University of Hawaii studying to be a teacher in order to help provide Hawaii's children with an education that will help them to succeed in today's troubled world. I have a disability myself. My prescription drug benefits are a life saver for me and my family. If I have to pay for these benefits and for the medications at a more expensive rate, I will not be able to afford medical care, utility bills, and my mortgage. I will become at risk for foreclosure, homelessness, and welfare. Trying to balance the budget by hurting the people who are the life source of providing state services will further exacerbate the economic crisis and further destroy Hawaii's families abilities to survive.

**Please vote <sup>3</sup>no<sup>2</sup> on HB1725 that take away benefits from public employees.**

Mahalo,  
Jane Jamison

**From:** Catherine\_Caine/WAIKIKIE/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 11:26 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1725, HB1723, HB1715, HB 1726, HB 1727

To: Rep Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Rep Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair  
Rep. Henry Aquino  
Rep. Karen Awana  
Rep. Faye Hanohano  
Rep. Gilbert Keith-Agaran  
Rep. Marilyn Lee  
Rep. Mark Nakashima  
Rep. Scott Saiki  
Rep. Joe Souki  
Rep. Roy Takumi  
Rep. Kymberly Pine

My name is Catherine Caine and I am a Nationally Certified teacher employed at Waikiki School and I strongly oppose HB 1725, HB 1723, HB1715, HB1726, HB1727.

If these bills are passed it will impact a significant portion of the states population. I believe this population I am referring to understands that times are difficult for all of us and we should all bare the burden of these short falls. However, stripping these faithful employees of the health benefits is counter intuitive and lack creative solutions to a difficult problem.

There are many other ways to cut spending such as pay-lags which teachers have endured for many years or furloughs. Many of us bargained in good faith and financially planned based on what we were lead to believe was a commitment by the state to be true to their word. Removing health benefits from negotiate is appalling and chips away at our basic rights as citizens to organize and make our voices heard. In the end without these benefits or proper warning to prepare for the lack of these benefits the state will bare the burden of more indigent citizens in need of assistance from the state.

Please consider the human element and the impact during an already difficult economic period and vote against HB 1723, HB1725, HB1715,HB1726, HB1727. We need your support or we can no longer support you as our representatives.

With grave concerns,

Catherine Caine

**From:** David Hammes [dlhammes@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 11:37 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** questions@uhpa.org  
**Subject:** HB 1725--Testimoney--2/17/09

To the Honorable Members of the State of Hawai'i House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

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

Dear Members of the Committee:

My name is David Hammes, a professor of economics at the University of Hawai'i-Hilo, where I have been since August 1988. I reside at 155 Alohalani Drive, Hilo, HI 96720; phone # 808-959-2426.

I wish to have these comments considered in your meeting Tuesday, 17, 2009, 8:30AM.

Specifically, I comment on House Bill 1725

**HB 1725-RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND.**  
*Prohibits EUTF from providing prescription drug coverage. Allows EUTF to have a prescription benefits paid by the employee. The impact of this could be to increase premiums since access to prescription drugs often prevents other costly services like surgery. Finding an insurance carrier may be difficult because there needs to be assurances that a large number of employees will participate.*

This bill is another frontal, cynical, and dangerous assault on the sanctity of contracts and the faith and goodwill of the State of Hawai'i. The result of these being passed will be to reduce the credibility of the State government in the eyes not only of its own employees, but any agency assessing the honesty and credibility of this State. Therefore, bond-rating agencies would be very likely to reconsider their ratings of this state's debt obligations, lowering them significantly, at great cost to the state's taxpayers.

Each of the benefits in these provisions was bargained in good faith by labor and management. People have planned on these provisions in the same way they plan on their monthly wages and salaries (also negotiated sometimes at high cost). For these benefits now to be altered by fiat exposes the State to charges of, at worst, dishonest bargaining, and, at best, using short-term economic exigency to cynically manipulate agreements in their favor when the will of the people is being ignored.

Of course, any savings will only be temporary at best, if at all. Consider anyone negotiating with the State in the future. All future 'promised' benefits will be ignored because their existence is now

The state consequently, will see payments rise and lose the ability to smooth wage and benefits packages through time to better mediate the business cycle. Passage of these bills will worsen, not lessen, our exposure to cyclical, economic swings.

Your responsibilities and duties obligate you to hear this bill, but your duties and obligations also require you to uphold contracts honorably entered in to. By considering passage of this bill you abrogate any pretence at upholding the honor and credibility of the State therefore doing grievous damage to its economic future.

While this appears to affect only state employees, I submit to you that anyone dealing with this state for any purpose, think Lenders, will be twice shy to purchase any obligation of this State. If they do, they will only purchase it at great discount reflecting what they know to be State renegeing as a common policy. In the future, anyone considering working for the State, will think twice and require payment and expenses up-front.

Short term economic exigency, that will be made worse, not better, by passage of these bills, should not be a cover for attacks on labor, state employees, the bargaining process and the credibility of the state.

Thank you for your time and kind consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

David Hammes, Ph.D.  
155 Alohalani Drive  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** p.kanakas [p.kanakas@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 3:27 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** bill 1725

2/13/09

To whom it may concern:

I am opposed to bill # 1725. I know that many people such as teachers work for the state because of the benefits. They certainly could make more money in the private sector! Please do NOT pass this bill. We need to attract good employees to work for our state, and let's face it..... you get what you pay for!

Thank you,  
Susan P. Harrington  
2372 Jennie Street  
Honolulu, HI 96819  
(808)847-3547

--  
Aloha,

P  
:)

Honorable Committee Members:

My name is Sue Goodman and I wish to submit testimony against HB 1725, which proposes to stop prescription drug coverage under EUTF. I am a long-time state employee dealing with chronic health problems. I am also a single individual, who could not afford the necessary medications that enable me to be a productive individual, without continuing prescription coverage. This is a vital issue not only for me, but for other state employees as well. Should this measure be upheld, then I would be forced to either leave my job for one with drug coverage, or face the difficult decision of either buying groceries or trying to pay for the medications that I need. I enjoy my job and making a positive difference in people's lives---but need continuing prescription coverage in order to do that. Therefore I ask that this bill be killed. Do not ask state employees to risk their health for the sake of a "quick fix" in balancing the budget.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 4:00 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** lindakuoha@msn.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1725

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Linda James  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [lindakuoha@msn.com](mailto:lindakuoha@msn.com)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

Comments:

To Whom it may concern:

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As a teacher at Leihoku Elementary, I am opposed to these bills: 1723, 1719, 1725, & 1727. I already spend over a thousand dollars a year to buy supplies and other materials to aid in my students' learning. I use this money from my own pocket because I want my students to have all of the things that everyone else has i.e. white boards, note books, folders etc. Most of my students are on reduced or free lunch because their families cannot afford a lot. I feel for these families. I am still facing financial difficulty even with my health, vision, and dental benefits. I can't imagine having to pay more than I already do. If you take away health benefits for the retired teachers this is even worse because they do not have as much income coming in and this is when going to the doctor is much more important. I am around twenty-four five year olds each day so getting sick is very easy because my students are always picking up germs left and right. I need my benefits to help keep me healthy but without draining my already tiny income. The cost of living in Hawaii is not cheap and if the state hopes to keep teachers who are qualified from leaving then these bills should not be passed because every year we lose teachers because the officials here in Hawaii just don't seem to deem the work that we do as important. I am shocked that these bills were even considered, it makes teachers around the state feel that education is your last priority. Well, it shouldn't be, these students need us. The amount of work that we do is priceless. Everyday I come to school between 6:45am and I leave at 4:00pm. I put in extra hours everyday and am never paid for it. I do this because I care about my students. The thought that you would take away my vision, hearing, and health benefits to save a few dollars sickens me. I know countless teachers

that feel the same way. Haven't we given back enough? We give our time and our money to provide a safe educational environment for our students and you reward us by taking away our medical, vision, and dental? I pray that bills 1723, 1719, 1725, & 1727 never get passed.

Sincerely,

Jillian Przygodzinski

**From:** Carrie Luna [sea-luna@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 5:12 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** RE: Opposed to Health & Retirement Bills

I am opposed to the bills listed below because I feel it is not fair. Our cost of living and taxes in Hawaii are already high. How can we afford to pay out more when we are already living from paycheck to paycheck. You must stop these bills from passing.

- \*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.

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**From:** David Yoshida [David.Yoshida@co.mauhi.us]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:36 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Opposition to House Bills which effectively reduce benefits to County/State workers

I am a 13 year County of Maui Firefighter and am voicing my strong opposition to the House Bills which effectively reduce the benefits to County workers, specifically HB1726, HB1727, HB1719, HB1725. My co-workers and I have put in years of professional and caring work for the public in good faith and fully expecting the benefits that were laid out for us in the beginning of our careers.  
We are expecting you to support your most valuable constituents.

- - - - -

County of Maui.  
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Ann G. Tam Sing  
865 Kahena St.  
Honolulu, HI 96825  
[atamsing@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:atamsing@hawaii.rr.com)

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

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit written testimony. My name is Ann G. (Angie) Tam Sing, and I am a current retiree from the State of Hawaii. I retired in June, 2004 after 31 ½ years with the Department of Human Services. I am deeply upset, and feel betrayed, by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. I am submitting written testimony on two of those bills – HB 1725 and HB 1727.

HB 1725 and HB 1727 say that from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2015, public employee-beneficiaries and dependent-beneficiaries will need to pay the entire cost of prescription drug coverage (HB1725) and dental and vision coverage (HB1727). I am addressing these together as they basically say the same thing, although they address different coverages. Taken together they show the enormity of the effects on the current and retired employee population.

As a retiree I see this as a way for the State to walk away from promises made to its employees – that if we worked for the State, committed our work-life to it, and took lower wages in the meantime, we would be taken care of in our retirement by way of a retirement package that included a good medical package. That package included prescription, vision and drug, as well as a comprehensive medical plan (hospital, doctor visit, labs, x-rays, etc.). As we get older, we find ourselves with a very limited income. The amount of the State retirement is not enough to pay the entire monthly bills. The Deferred Compensation plans we were steered to in lieu of staying in the contributory retirement plan (a big PR push was made to encourage us to switch as it would be much better for us in the long run) were still struggling to recover from the 9 - 11 wipeout when the current economic situation hit them. Many of us find ourselves in a situation where we would wipe out these funds in short order were we to start to withdraw from them, leaving us short of what we had planned on and budgeted for. I, personally, am not yet able to collect Social Security. Many of my fellow retirees are also caught in this position. If this bill passes, then we would be faced with needing to either pay for the full cost of maintaining these coverages, (not possible for many, I'm sure) or doing without these services at a time in our lives where they are most needed. It is unconscionable that the State would put us in that position, after making promises to the contrary; promises that life decisions were made upon.

I am imploring you to vote “NO” on these 2 bills that take away promised and needed benefits from both current and retired State employees and their dependents.

Aloha and Mahalo!

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 9:46 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** mshy69@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1725

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: D Matsuda  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 80 maluhia drive wailuku, Hi  
Phone: 244-4741  
E-mail: [mshy69@yahoo.com](mailto:mshy69@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

Comments:

I do not agree with the proposals of these bills why do we have to suffer, after all the years of service we put into the jobs we do everyday. I do not agree with any of these bills to be passed. We need to look for another alternative to make money beside taking away the benefits of the people that keep our state operations running

**From:** jaurello@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 10:08 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Government Employees House Bills

Our economy is in such a grave situation. Those of us HGEA employees who are on the "line" everyday for 5, 10, 20, 30 .....years deserve what we already have in place as benefits. Any cuts to our benefits will put your state/county workers into financial ruin and halt government operations! If you want the governments to run, then allows us the benefits! We are all suffering and our departments has earnestly tried to curtail spending, cutting our departmental budgets with equipment, supplies, travel to abide by Governor Lingle's initial request.

The bills I am NOT for: HB 1725, 17223, 1715,1726, 1727

As elected officials voted in by not only the general public, but also endorsed by the unions I fervently hope that you will take our needs to heart. We are not just numbers, we are people in your community, your next door neighbor, your friend and relative.

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 10:25 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** jhidani@msn.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1725

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Joyce Hidani  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [jhidani@msn.com](mailto:jhidani@msn.com)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

Comments:

**From:** mellissa petro [missmelliss@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 10:43 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony Against Bills Targeting Public Employees

Hello. My name is Mellissa Petro. I have been a Registered Nurse at Maui Memorial Medical Center Intensive Care Unit since 2005.

It is unfair that I might have to suffer from the effects of the bad economy on the State of Hawaii. I don't feel that my working benefits, pay (including step movements), retirement, medical, dental, and vision benefits should suffer because of the State of Hawaii's financial situation. I plan on continuing to work at Maui Memorial Medical Center until I retire 30 + years from now. I work hard every day caring for the residents and visitors of Maui. It is very difficult to give my patients the care that they need when nurses aide, unit clerks and secretaries, and other RN jobs are frozen.

I feel that there are other ways to balance the budget. Raising the excise tax would be a better way to address the State of Hawaii's revenue problem. I don't feel that State of Hawaii employees should suffer because of this.

I do not support any of these bills targeting public employees:

HB 1536, HB 1106, HB 1108, HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1725, HB 1723, HB 1715, HB 1726, HB 1727, HB 1720, HB 1721, HB 1722, HB 1737

Thank you,

Mellissa Petro RN

(808) 264-1366

**From:** Alpheus Mathis [alpheusmathis@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 11:00 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** testimony

Re:HB1725 – Halt prescription drug overage under EUTF;  
HB1723 – Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable;  
HB1715 – Increase, for new employees, the age and service time requirement to retire;  
HB1726 – Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits;  
HB1727 – Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage.

Legislative representatives from the House committee:

I am in opposition to this bill and feel it poses undue financial hardship on my family and kids.  
I have been committed to the provision of public service for the past 17 years and feel this bill is not in the best interest of the public at large. Please rescind this proposed legislation

Aloha  
Alpheus Mathis MPA, OTR  
Dept of Health  
Adult Mental Health Division  
Hawaii State Hospital

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 write in opposition to House Bills 1718, 1719 and 1725.

Each of these bills would have significant adverse impacts on the financial, and potentially medical, well being of faithful public servants.

While the need for cost saving measures is clear, it would not be ethical to accomplish this by failing to honor long standing commitments to loyal employees / retirees.

These measures would most adversely affect the least paid employees, as these would likely have the least personal financial resources to help them withstand such cuts. Even among those who had moderate to upper salaries – loss of medical coverage could lead to severe hardship. Many government employees remain due to a combination of dedication to public service and reliance on anticipated long term benefits. These employees sacrifice higher salaries and perks in exchange for the promise of longer term coverage. Many have based their entire financial planning for retirement on such expectation. To renege at the 11th hour in many employee's careers is to make them disproportionately bear the burden of these tough times – and to do so at a time in life when they can least afford it.

There are less draconian options available to cut costs during of this crisis, without having such a staggering effect on retirees and their families. A few are listed here just to make the point. There are undoubtedly more and better alternatives as well : 1. Creating an option to work 4 or 4.5 days per week at reduced pay; 2. Creating selective opportunities for unpaid sabbaticals with guaranteed return rights; 3. Allowing, or even encouraging, a few extra days of unpaid leave immediately before or after holidays; 4. Loaning or sharing employees between agencies where possible rather than filling full time vacancies; 5. Enabling employees in over-crowded facilities to work from home on certain days of the week in order to reduce office space needs. 6. Reducing non-critical functions so that staff can accomplish core tasks with less cost. 7. Conducting a review of vendor contract provisions to weed out provisions which are not cost-beneficial to the State or Counties (at least from future contracts); 8. Establishing service fees for certain government functions that are currently free. This bill places the brunt of the economic burden on the shoulders of those who are least able to bear it. Please don't do this.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

  
Ellen Kraftsow  
County of Maui

**From:** gordines@kauaiflowers.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:16 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** House Labor Committee bills for state employees!  
**Importance:** High

*Dear Sirs,*

*I am writing because I humbly urge you to not endorse or pass the following bills as I have been a state employee for the past 29 years and plan to retire in 2010. The future of my family is at RISK!*

*Just say NO to: HB 1106 and HB 1718 also*

*HB1725 – Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF;*

*HB1723 – Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable;*

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

*HB1726 – Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits;*

*HB1727 – Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage.*

*Respectfully,*

*John R. Gordines*

*808 651-9711*

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*[www.kauaiflowers.com](http://www.kauaiflowers.com)*

*[gordines@kauaiflowers.com](mailto:gordines@kauaiflowers.com)*

*toll free 800 453-6416*

**From:** auntysam [hawiwi@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 9:58 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** stop it!

Stop trying to make the public workers pay for the economic setbacks! We deserve to keep ALL our benefits! If we take cuts, I believe ALL lawmakers should be an example and take that step first! Come on, let's be realistic! Honestly, do you really think taking away from the middle class will change the economy much...don't you think the lawmakers make more then I do?

Shirley Remular  
HGEA member

HB1725 - Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF;  
HB1723 - Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable;  
HB1715 - Increase, for new employees, the age and service time requirement to retire;  
HB1726 - Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits;  
HB1727 - Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage.

Aloha a hui hou!

**From:** jonfia@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 2:34 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Bills impacting state workers

Im writing to let you know that I am against bills:

HB 1715  
HB 1718  
HB 1719  
HB 1720  
HB 1721  
HB 1722  
HB 1723  
HB 1725  
HB 1727

In fact, I implore you to vote against these bills. As a public school teacher, these bills are an insult to the already poor working conditions that we have. What makes being a teacher even bearable in the state of Hawaii is our benefits. We exchange meager pay for the comfort of knowing we have our benefits.

Passage of these bills will drug, dental and vision will immediately impact our families and will be a MAJOR expense that will have to be absorbed by a teacher and his family. In my case (as is with many others), I am married to a teacher so we have no recourse to choose a different health plan. The amount of money we look to lose would force us make choices between our children's prescriptions, dental work, etc and paying our bills. Either way is a lose-lose situation. This in of itself could put families who already in a financially precarious situation into foreclosure and bankruptcy.

In regards to the bills concerning retirement age and benefits, passage of these bills would result in a mass exodus of senior/veteran teachers from the DOE. Many are already making plans to retire this June in anticipation of these bills. Who will replace these people? We already have a hard time finding enough teachers to fill our vacancies. I actually found it ironic that in today's Honolulu Advertiser there was an article about Sen. Norman Sakamoto's introduced Senate Bill 206. On one end Say wants to stick to the teachers and Sakamoto wants to help the teachers from the mainland who will more than likely leave our ranks within a few years. If these bills pass, anyone in their right mind would not become a public school teacher in the State of Hawaii. I am considering taking my 14 years in the DOE and leaving back to the mainland if these bills pass as it would make it virtually impossible for me to retire here. To make matters worse, the certain departure of many veteran teachers would only exacerbate the NCLB laws that all the schools are struggling to deal with. Not only to students need to meet certain test scores, but schools must have a very high percentage of its teachers be considered highly qualified. If those veteran teachers leave, their positions will likely be filled by non certified substitutes and emergency hires.

I am counting on you to make the right decision. I am actively following these bills not to mention 13,000 of my fellow teachers and will remember those who think so little of us to vote to pass these bills.

Thank you for your time.

**From:** Patricia McCarthy [pattyhawaii@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 2:35 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji; Sen. Russell Kokubun  
**Subject:** Opposition to HB 1715, 1718, 1719, 1723, 1725, 1726 & 1727

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

My name is Patricia McCarthy and I am a public employee. I have been a school based therapist at Keaau High School (80% poverty level) for 8 years. My intention was to stay here until I retire (2-5 years from now). I own a home in Keaau, pay lots of taxes and am very concerned about all of the above bills. When I was first hired it was as an exempt employee. The state was desperate for qualified, licensed therapists who would help support the Felix Consent Decree. After two years, we were made civil servants and my salary was decreased by over 22%. I almost left at that point in my career; however, I chose to work for less pay to be able to stay in my home, raise my child and end my career contributing to the community. I thought I was going to have a secure and safe retirement. The above bills are unfair and take away benefits from public employees and I would like to requests that you vote "no" on all of them.

Sincerely,  
Patricia McCarthy  
Keaau High School  
School Based Therapist

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## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Plwamoto@dhs.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 2:39 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony

**Importance:** High

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

My name is Payge Iwamoto. As a public employee for 20 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say.  
Specifically HB1718;1719;1725;1723;1715;1726;1727

HB1719 is a 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 bills, 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 mortgage is paid up 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, 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 Hawaii at risk. State programs that protect Hawaii'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 HB1719 and to send a strong message to Speaker Say, that he cannot punish civil servants for their dedication and commitment to the state of Hawaii.

HB1725 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.

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**From:** Kurt Faut [ktfaut@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 12:24 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Health and Retirement for Government employees

This letter is being sent in strong opposition to the proposed legislation. Consider cutting hours or shifts first. People apply for government jobs, in some cases, specifically for the job security and its associated benefits.

**VOTE:**

HB 1106 - Furloughing employees - >>NO<<

HB1718 - Halt reimbursement for Medicare part B premiums for employees retiring after 12/31/09 >> NO <<

HB1719 - Stop employer contribution for health benefits for those retiring after 7/1/09 >>NO<<

HB1725 - Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF >>NO<<

-HB 1727 - Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage. >>NO<<

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** Jym\_Duncan/KAUH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 12:51 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** Angela\_Miyashiro/KAUH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us;  
Robert\_Domingos/KAUH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us;  
Steve\_Stephenson/KAUH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us;  
Malia\_Panglao/KAUH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us; Sharon\_Beck/KAUH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Subject:** Bills HB 1723, 1719, 1725, 1727

I voice opposition to the bills above because they create hardship for our faithful state employees in the DOE and other departments. We feel that we are being pressured to retire early, and are being deprived of expected health benefits before and after retirement.

I am appalled that the State House of Representatives voted unanimously to allow school reconstitution, a drastic measure which will only cause disruption and failure among the youngest and most vulnerable members of our community -- our youth and children. Apparently you think that federal employees are better able to teach our children than teachers who live in our communities and know the people, unique cultures and languages, including Hawaiian Creole, of Hawaii's people. Our people are too smart to believe that reconstitution of failing schools is a solution. It's a recipe for disaster!

**From:** Susan Nakamoto [srinkon@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 12:29 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1106, 1718, 1719, 1725, 1723, 1715, 1726 AND 1726

As an HGEA member for 30 years, I would strongly object to the proposed amendments. I would propose that there are other ways to cut costs -- i.e., lowering the temperature for air conditioning; turning off the hot water heater -- it is not necessary for State buildings (the courthouse). I believe there are other cost-saving measures that can be taken before you start taking away health benefits. Also, another way would be to use cost-efficient lighting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Nakamoto, CSR #237  
Official Court Reporter  
State of Hawaii, Third Circuit - Kona Division

**From:** Sharla\_Mohica/WAIAKEAI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 1:05 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony; Rep. Faye Hanohano; Rep. Mark Nakashima  
**Subject:** HB1715,HB1725,HB1723,HB1726,HB1727,HB1718

Hi, my name is Sharla Mohica and I live in Hawaii District. I work for Waiakea Intermediate School 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.

Thank you,  
Sharla Mohica

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Toby\_Neal/MAUIDO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 1:52 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** OBJECTING to bills in House/Senate that cut retirement benefits!

These bills are short sighted and ultimately will cost the state MORE when aging employees end up applying for Quest and Medicare!

OBJECT to:

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;  
HB 1726 - Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits;  
HB 1727 - Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage.

The state should NOT cut costs to our loyal, hardworking state employees to bail out the budget. This will ultimately cost the state good employees and more money in the long run, and it violates our Union-negotiated rights and due process.

Toby W. Neal, MSW, LCSW  
Behavioral Health Program Manager  
Maui District Office  
(808) 344-9657

**From:** Debbie\_Kumai/CENDO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 1:30 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719, HB1725 and HB1727

TO: House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

I apologize that I was unable to send this email prior to your committee meeting this morning. I spend my working day (typically from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.) planning for/working with students, collaborating with others, and completing reports. I have very little time outside of work and family responsibilities to respond to other pressing issues of concern. It is not that I don't care, I only have so much time. Perhaps this testimony could be presented at another committee meeting if these proposals move on.

My name is Debra Ann Kumai and I am a speech-language pathologist (SLP) servicing Wheeler Elementary and Middle schools in the Central Oahu District. I have been working for the Hawaii State Department of Education for approximately 26 years, with 8 years of prior experience in two other states. I agree that we need to consider cost cutting measures in this economic crisis. However, of all the bills being proposed to curtail government spending, I strongly oppose:

- HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employee beneficiaries who retire after 7/1/09 if the employee retires before the employee's medicare retirement age,
- HB 1725 which excludes prescription drug coverage from the health benefits plan, and
- HB 1727 which excludes dental and vision coverage from the health benefits plan.

Since the late 1970s, the SLPs (all certified with master level degrees) in the state of Hawaii have been engaged in a long, uphill struggle to get comparable pay and benefits similar to the teachers with whom we consult, support, and collaborate. It is not enough that we have to accept lower pay relative to our teacher counterparts and have a longer daily schedule. These bills that you are proposing penalize us even further by taking away the primary financial perk for being a state worker. Health benefits have been a critical selling point for recruitment and retention of professionals in our field. Passage of these bills will surely result in a greater personnel shortage for us. How do you propose that we meet the continuing needs of our special education students?

These bills provide a terrible blow to those of us who have dedicated so much time and effort educating our youth. I strongly urge you to NOT support HB 1719, HB 1725 and HB 1727.

Example e-mail letter

TO: EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov
FROM:
BCC: mmorita@hsta.org
SUBJECT: HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
1725

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

My name is Jacquelyn Jaeger and I am a teacher at Koko Head School and I strongly oppose HB 1719 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.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

[This paragraph should tell why you feel it's unfair for them to change your health benefits; why you would retire on June 30th; and other reasons why this is a bad bill.]

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

We are opposed to the above bill (1725) because we feel that it is grossly unfair to teachers who have faithfully given years of service to the D.O.E. Instead of instituting punitive measures, it would be wise to let up teachers who are valuable public servants and make a difference in the lives of future generations. Further, passage of this bill may result in the loss of many talented veteran teachers.

John K. Murihara
John K. Murihara
John K. Murihara
John K. Murihara

Jacquelyn Jaeger
Dana Kamano-Ka
Dana Kamano-Ka

Jacquelyn P. Jaeger
Jacqueline Asato
Jacqueline Asato

Jacqueline Asato
Elaine M. Yang

Elaine Momoye Yang
Mary Jane Taniguchi

Elaine M. Yang
Mary Jane Taniguchi

Joy F. Yoshimura
Joy F. Yoshimura

Joy F. Yoshimura
Tarell Tanabe

Rayne Hense

*Rayne Hense*

Keala Kilcoyne

*Keala Kilcoyne*

Cecilia K. Lum

*Cecilia K. Lum*

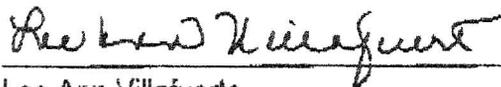
Traci Lukken

Friday, 13 February 2009

Re: HB 1725

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

My name is Lee Ann Villafuerte, I am an employee at Koko Head Elementary School, and I **strongly oppose** HB 1725, which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age.



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Lee Ann Villafuerte

From: Corrine Largo [clargo1888@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 9:54 AM  
To: LABtestimony  
Subject: Bill:1725

Star Bulletin Article: "They're still talking" by Christine Donnelly Feb. 2, 1997

Got a question?

These answers could help you  
By Christine Donnelly  
Star-Bulletin

Q: Pay is a big issue. How much do Hawaii public schoolteachers earn now?

From about \$25,000 to \$51,000 for a 181-day day work year, depending on academic credentials and years of experience. The average is \$35,952.

Q: How does that compare to the rest of the nation?

In 1995-96, Hawaii's average teacher salary ranked 20th in the nation, but fell to 51st, last among all states and the District of Columbia, when adjusted for the cost of living, according to a study by the American Federation of Teachers.

Q: How does that compare to the rest of the nation?

When looking at both days and hours of instruction, Hawaii ranks lowest in the nation, with an average of 1,099 hours of instruction per year, according to the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics.

Q: Besides pay, what benefits will teachers lose while striking.

If the strike lasts into mid-March, they will lose service credits toward tenure and retirement. Although they'll receive no pay while striking, their health coverage will remain in place.

Posted on: Saturday, March 31, 2007

Teachers' salary ranks 15th

By Robbie Dingeman  
Advertiser Staff Writer

A national survey ranks Hawai'i's average teacher salary at 15th in the country, but local officials say the high cost of living drags that down and isn't enough to prevent a huge turnover.

The American Federation of Teachers, a national teachers union, said the average Hawai'i public school teacher salary for the 2004-05 school year was \$47,833, an increase of 5.2 percent from the previous year.

That's slightly above the national average teacher pay of \$47,602. That is a 2.2 increase from the previous year, the union said, but not enough to cover the cost of inflation.

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association, which represents some 13,000 public school teachers, said Hawai'i needs to find ways to get and keep teachers and reverse a problem with turnover.

"Our new employees are leaving at the end of three years at an alarming rate - 60 percent of our new employees are leaving after the first three years," said HSTA executive director Joan Husted.

"No company can stay in business with that kind of turnover. We have to find a way to keep teachers in teaching," she said.

The Hawai'i ranking was better for beginning teachers – the state ranked eighth in the nation for starting teacher salary, with an average of \$35,816, a 5.5 percent increase over the previous year.

And officials say that increase in beginning teacher salary is important. "We worked at it," Husted said. "You've got to attract people in."

State Senate Education Chairman Norman Sakamoto said the national report shows progress but that more needs to be done to enhance pay, especially to lure beginning teachers.

"I believe it's worth paying our teachers more," Sakamoto said. "I think we'd have more professionals staying in the profession longer."

Sakamoto said state lawmakers are looking at other ways to attract and keep teachers. One proposal that has won support this year would be to give a monetary bonus in hard-to-serve areas. That could mean a \$5,000 bonus to teach at a school struggling with its yearly progress, or in Nanakuli, where a longer drive would eat into one's salary.

Lawmakers also are looking into allowing teachers to get a boost in pay for educational credits that fall short of a degree. For example, a teacher with 20 college credits from another state could be paid more. And that would go up more if the teacher proceeded to get additional credits here.

State Department of Education spokesman Greg Knudsen said he's encouraged to see the national ranking but knows that factoring in Hawai'i's high cost of living usually brings the salaries' buying power down toward the bottom of the list.

He said salary is a key issue when hiring teachers who move to Hawai'i and lack the support that a longer-term resident might have.

"We do feel that it's important to have a high salary for teachers in order to attract the best and the brightest," Knudsen said. "In terms of real spending power, it's still important for us to improve teacher salaries."

Early this month, HSTA president Roger Takabayashi said teachers were given the preliminary schedule of what is being negotiated for 2007-09. He said they were discussing increases that would push to \$45,000 the starting pay for teachers, \$60,000 as the average salary and \$100,000 for most senior teachers.

Husted said the cost of living, especially housing and gasoline, is daunting to beginning teachers.

"It's really an issue of what does your money get you," she said.

"You'll find that we rank in the top 10 in the amount of income we have to put to one side for things like rent or homeowners' cost."

And she said that complaint shows up often in polls taken among departing teachers: "I'm not going to stay here because I can't buy a house; I can't even rent a home."

Reach Robbie Dingeman at [rdingeman@honoluluadvertiser.com](mailto:rdingeman@honoluluadvertiser.com).

• • •

Retirement benefits are the last viable keys to the stability of educational interest. Devalue the state's educational support in Hawaii, then will move to privatization. Private firms are able to sustain highly qualified teachers through competitive salary and benefits.

Is the state of Hawaii taking care of our highly qualified teachers? Are there any left in the state of Hawaii?

The only public confidence is in private schools.

Are we moving to a private school only state?

What happens to the survival of a state when education is not state supported?

Voting for bills 1723, 1719, 1725, & 1727.

Is this voting for privatization?

Eventually, every Hawaii's state sector will be privatized and we won't need public representation.

Housing is already out of reach for many. Tourism is at a low.

Home sales are at a low.

People will come, people will stay if they know that Hawaii HAS THE BEST EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE NATION.

Please do not vote for these bills.

Corrine Largo  
808-487-6633

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 12:06 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** angelapikula@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1725

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: angela  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 45-516 pahia rd kaneohe, HI 96744  
Phone: 808-946-2952  
E-mail: [angelapikula@hotmail.com](mailto:angelapikula@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

Comments:

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Leonard Batungbacal [luckyb1@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 2:32 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in opposition to HB 1719& HB 1725. Testimony in favor of HB 1106

Leonard Batungbacal

1549 Molehu Drive

Honolulu, HI 96818

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Leonard Batungbacal. As a public employee for 25 years, I am opposed to some of the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: I'm opposed to HB 1719, and HB 1725. However, I would support HB 1106 as it clarifies how retirement and leave calculations would work in the event of furloughs.

I believe that these bills and others that will be heard on Tuesday February 17<sup>th</sup> show a lack of regard for the sacrifices and dedication of many State employees and a lack of commitment and fiduciary responsibility to safe guard the funds necessary to fulfill the State's contractual obligations to its employees.

HB 1719 is of concern to me because it reduces a benefit that was "earned" after working for ten years (or 25 years for younger workers); however, most employees worked a minimum of 25 and nowadays 30+ years before actually being able utilize this "earned benefit". It is something that we have helped to pay for during the span of our working years via the many forms of taxation each annum. I also think that it is falsehood to state that your cost of living will go down when you retire. For myself and I'm sure many others our mortgages won't be paid off by the time we retire and that means for some that they may not be able to afford the health premiums on the fixed income they will receive when retired. One should consider that we are most likely experiencing a temporary reprieve in the cost of gasoline & other fuels, what happens to the retirees when the cost of gasoline jumps to \$6 a gallon (like it is in many parts of the world for decades). I believe as a taxpayer that it is very important that health benefits be assured because retired seniors may have to choose to be without medical benefits to keep roof over heads and food on the table. This will ultimately cost the State and Federal government more.

This bill forces to people to consider retiring this year, or need to plan on working to the current Medicare retirement age. This bill will result in reducing State expenditures by essentially raising the age of retirement

Although I oppose this bill 1719, I would suggest that the bill should specify age 65 and not the Medicare retirement age which could be subject to change as the Federal government struggles to address it's own fiscal issues.

HB 1725 is opposed because it locks in what is supposed to be a temporary change for no less than 6 years and has no review period prior to the year 2015 to determine when these drastic changes were no longer needed should our economy turn around earlier than the year 2015. A bigger concern is that this will take place when employees will most likely be furloughed for 1 or 2 days a month and HB 1727 also calls for employees to pay a 100% of dental and vision plan cost. Employees that earn less will get hurt the most via this bill. The combined impact this bill, HB 1727 & furloughing will lead to another negative consequence which is reduced spending by employees which will help to

contribute to a further decline in our local economy because employees with less discretionary funds will spend less! Many line staff are already working paycheck to paycheck, this will hurt individual workers and their families.

**Please vote "no" in regards to HB 1719 and HB 1725**

I would suggest that the legislature consider ways to generate more revenue in State by reducing the interstate trade deficit that currently exist between us and New Mexico, Arizona and Nevada to make our economy healthier. We send millions every year to New Mexico and Arizona for the care of Hawaii's incarcerated adults and we locals dump millions into Nevada coffers each year. These events help to stimulate other States economy and help to slow ours. Consider building up on our existing prisons so that we can bring our incarcerated residents home and help to stimulate our economy by keeping our tax dollars in State to multiple via new jobs, ongoing expenses for food, clothing, etc. Stop the Las Vegas drain by offering some forms of legalized gambling and taxing existing underground gambling that thrives in Hawaii already.

## **yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** Cynthia\_Shimoda/MOAHHS/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 1:59 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725 & HB 1723

My name is Cynthia Shimoda, I am an athletic health care trainer in the Department of Education. I am strongly opposed to HB 1723 & HB 1725. HB 1725 says that from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2015, I will have to bear THE ENTIRE burden of prescription drug coverage. HB 1723 says that I will also I have to pay 5% more every paycheck, and then some with the increasing prices of health insurance over the years. I am a pregnant diabetic mother of soon to be 2 children with a mortgage. I don't spend my hard earned money frivolously, why should I be expected to balance the Budget with my life? I work 6 days a week, with no "overtime" compensation. I depend upon my benefits to survive in Hawaii. 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. If these bills were to pass, you may find yourself short more than a few public servants.

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

Cynthia Shimoda

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** Anthony Twarowski [Anthony.Twarowski@co.maui.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 2:09 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** House Bills

February 13, 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,

Anthony Twarowski  
County of Maui

Firefighter I

**From:** Guieb, Stephanie K. [stephanie.guieb@doh.hawaii.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 2:16 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** testimony for 02/13 and 02/17/09

Hi, my name is STEPHANIE KEAHI WILCOX GUIEB, and 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 was born and raised in Hawaii and have all of my ohana living here.

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.

Thank you,

STEPHANIE KEAHI WILCOX GUIEB, RN

See bill numbers below

HB1536 - Freezing salaries of Governor, Lt Governor

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.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is ZoeAnne Bianchi.

As a public employee for 14 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1106

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 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.

## yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** Corinne [chongn006@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 7:53 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** repaquino@capital.hawaii.gov; repawana@capital.hawaii.gov;  
rephanohano@capital.hawaii.gov; repkeithagaran@capital.hawaii.gov;  
replee@capital.hawaii.gov; repnakashima@capital.hawaii.gov; reppine@capital.hawaii.gov;  
reprhoads@capital.hawaii.gov; repsaiki@capital.hawaii.gov; repsouki@capital.hawaii.gov;  
reptakumi@capital.hawaii.gov; repyamashita@capital.hawaii.gov  
**Subject:** testimony on Take Away Bills: HB1723, HB1715, HB1726, HB1727, HB1536, HB1106,  
HB1718, HB1719, HB1725

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today. My name is Corinne Chong and I work at the Kona Community Hospital. I have worked as a public employee for 20 years, and I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say.

As a civil servant, I chose to work for less pay to be able to contribute to the community. 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 the public service community, Speaker Say is telling us that public employees don't mean much and that promises can be broken mid-stream. It is not fair that the economic crisis should be resolved by sacrificing the health and well being of me and the rest of the public workers who have dedicated themselves to their jobs.

HB1725 relating to public employees bearing the entire burden of prescription drug coverage is not acceptable. With the rising cost of healthcare and the increase in chronic diseases that require medication, this bill along with talks of salary cuts and increases in our premiums is detrimental to each public worker and their families. This will have ill affects past the six years and will definitely have an effect on the quality of life for each of the public employees and their families.

I don't feel it is fair that we the public employees take the burden of resolving the State's economic situation. We have sacrificed over the many years and those of us that have long years of service have been dedicated to our employers. Penalizing the public employees and taking away benefits is simply not fair to us.

I humbly ask that you vote "NO" on all the bills that take away benefits from public employees like me.

Sincerely,  
Corinne Chong

Testimony against Bills before the House Committee on Labor and Public  
Employment.

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

Respectfully;

I am John Bruce, writing to you to voice my concerns about the following  
House Bills that myself and a majority of my co-workers have opposition to:

House Bill No. 1536- Relating to Salaries  
House Bill No. 1106- Relating to Public Employment  
House Bill No. 1718- Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits  
House Bill No. 1719- Relating to Public employees  
House Bill No. 1725- Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health  
Benefits Trust Fund

In all honesty, the first Bill HB 1536 has its merits. Freeze the salaries of  
the highest paid State and County Employees. **DON'T FORGET THE  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT.** We must share  
in this suffering together.

Regarding the second on this list, HB 1106, furloughs may be the least  
painful method of dealing with this financial problem by everyone taking 2  
days off a month without pay until some benchmark is met, not necessarily  
fiscal year 2013. Our benefits must be preserved with this common  
sacrifice. This should be required of ALL state and county employees.

HB 1718 will create a mass retirement of upper level management in many  
agencies. Anyone remaining will have to have other retirement medical  
arrangements.

HB 1719 will also create a mass exodus. Maybe some think this would be a great idea, I think not.

HB 1725 goes along with a bill on Tuesday's agenda. It PROHIBITS funding of prescription drug coverage for employees. The bill on Tuesday, HB 1727 will do the same for dental and vision coverage. My wife is disabled with a muscle disease; please drop by and suggest alternatives for medication to her.

Benefits are frequently what attracts and keeps employees to become and continue as civil service employees. The majority of these individuals have been loyal to government employment and the missions of their respective agencies for many years.

Eliminating benefits will cause morale problems and will affect not only our County of Maui but the other counties and the State as a whole. Removal of benefits and changing the agreements will be detrimental to all employees, their families and the community at large.

In addition, eliminating benefits from employees will stimulate a large number of mid-level and higher management personnel to seek retirement immediately. Those who remain for the present may indeed seek other employment when the economy improves. With these forced changes there will cease to be any incentive for employees to remain with the State or County divisions and agencies.

By creating such a situation the quality of public safety and services will become a major concern. The vacancies will be among the experienced individuals who have dedicated their employment careers to government service. Filling the positions will be difficult and will undoubtedly create problems of its own. The timetable presented doesn't create an orderly transfer or training scenario for personnel replacement.

For this reason, I am voicing my opposition to the proposed house bills. The overall effect would bring larger problems that would cause a disruption to State and County services on all islands.

There are forces in our community who will applaud these changes if implemented. Their interests are at odds with the logic of government operations. Private contractors will never be the answer to the government's

financial shortfalls and inevitably leads to corruption and influence of special interests. Jobs still must be done and your loyal government employees are there to serve the public in this capacity. Support them by not passing these bills on.

Sincerely;

John G. Bruce  
1299 Kauhikoa Road.  
Haiku, Hawaii 96708  
808-344-2793

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** peggy moore [puailikea@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 7:17 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB 1718, HB1719, HB1725,HB1723, HB 1727

I have worked for the State DOE for over 20 years. I will be retiring when I reach 62 which is 12 more years so then I will have more that 30 years of service. I feel that we have a union that is there for negotiating the fairest ways to keep us motivated to do more than our job calls for with our employer. By putting caps on benefits and taking away benefits that we have earned already is wrong. The public needs us and we want to continue serving them. We don't have a choice of whether or not to join the union -- we pay for it. Let the union do its job for us as intended. When we don't have anything to negotiate then the union won't be needed. I've always felt safe working for the State of Hawaii and now uncertainty is becoming a daily worry for myself and many workers. Let's vote no on these bills, and look for other ways to help our State economically.

## yamashita1- Kathy

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**From:** zombies@hawaiiantel.net  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:00 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony: HB 1715, 1718, 1719, 1723, 1725, 1726, 1727

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony. My name is Jim Hayden. As a public employee for 16 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1715, 1718, 1719, 1723, 1725, 1726, 1727

HB 1719, HB1718, and HB 1723 are of greatest concern to me. As a civil servant, I choose to work for roughly one third less pay then my counterparts in the private sector. Every negotiation cycle the value of our retirement package has been touted by administrations past and present.

I personally don't consider these to be "take away" bills simply because we've made sacrifices and have earned these benefits. They weren't handed out to us like party favors and to suggest otherwise is deeply insulting.

For years the legislator has raided the ERS funds; and they haven't had a second thought. Yet the minute things head south, they expect us to take one for the team. It is a public disgrace, you people may have the ability to write something on a piece of paper and call it a law; but I call it stealing, and I don't think very highly of it.

These bills are blatant attempts to force people into early retirement. The plans I have made to ensure that my daughter graduates from college before I retire are suddenly up in the air. I now have to ask myself if it is worth keeping this job knowing that a single ailment could completely negate my family's future. I take great comfort knowing that even if I were to drop dead tomorrow there is a safety net for the widow I would leave behind and for our nine year old daughter. She could be the biggest loser under the honorable speaker's purposed reforms. If I choose to get out now so that I know my wife and I won't become a burden to her during our retirement, we're going to be looking at a few lean years. I'm probably not going to be able to send her to a private school, and may have to spend some time out of state to chase after work. I'm certainly not going to be pumping a lot of bucks into the economy if I have to worry about what I'm going to do for a living.

But it's not like it's the first time I've seen huge pay cuts. I took a job as an SR-9 to get my foot in the door of the civil service, and I spent the better part of a decade getting my pay back up to the level it was prior to that; I've paid my dues, worked hard, and made a number of sacrifices to secure a future for my myself and my family. I strongly encourage this committee to vote "no" on these bills and to send a strong message to Speaker Say, that when you decide to take something away from somebody, you had better make damn sure that it was yours to begin with; and not something that someone else had labored many years of their life to acquire.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jim Hayden

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## yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** Mynahs@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 6:57 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Please Do Not Take Away Health Benefits for State Workers

I am deeply concerned about some of the bills that you will soon be voting on. HB1106, regarding furloughing employees, is not well thought out. Part-time workers cannot afford to have any hours taken away from them and it would affect their ability to be eligible for health insurance and unemployment insurance if they do not work 20 hours a week. We need to make a living too, and balancing the budget on us would not save much money anyway. Bill HB1725, which would take away our drug coverage, bill HB1727, which would take away our dental and vision insurance, and bill HB1723, which could make health care unaffordable, all need to be taken off the table. At a time when President Obama is trying to make sure everyone has health coverage, Hawaii does not need to be an example where everyone is uninsured. State workers work hard and many of us, especially at the DOE, put in overtime for free. I don't think that kind of dedication deserves to be rewarded with taking away our basic health insurance plans. Hawaii is know as one of the top healthy states, and this is not the direction we need to be going in. There are many other ways to cut the budget without punishing people just because they happen to work for the state. Balancing the budget by cutting health plans should not be an option, and I especially can't understand how a democrat like Calvin Say can propose these things when democrats are the ones who worked so hard for us to have health plans. Those who get the largest salaries, our leaders and legislators, should be the ones to make the biggest sacrifices and remind us why we elected them in the first place. Thank you for your attention.

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**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** jillfitz@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 6:55 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** jillfitz@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Legislative Bills 1106,1718,1719,1725,1723,1726,1727

Dear Members of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii,

My name is Jill Fitzpatrick. I have put my heart and soul into my work at the University of Hawaii, Maui Community College, have received the UHCC Excellence in Service award, and I am a member of HGEA. HGEA members are the people who perform a lot of volunteer work for many of non-profit agencies in the state of Hawaii, in addition to the work they perform at their jobs.

I do not believe that it is fair for the House to be looking at ways to balance the budget by taking away benefits that I have worked for during the past 20 years. I do believe that a salary freeze or a short furlough or raising the GET tax by one percent would be a better way to solve the Hawaii's projected budget crisis. Please look for other ways to balance the budget than by taking away our hard earned benefits.

Thank you for your time  
Jill Fitzpatrick  
Media Specialist  
Maui Community College

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Melvin Honda [hondam005@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 6:49 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Public Employees Health and Retirement Benefits

As a recent retiree from the state after 33 years, I do not think it is fair that the following bills be passed by the State Legislature:

- HB1725: Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF
- HB 1726: Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits
- HB 1727: Prohibit prescription drug coverage under EUTF

I'm sure there are other areas that can be cut or reduced but it should not involve public employees who have serviced the state of Hawaii for many years.

Thank you for your consideration.

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**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Charles Gill [charlesgill1050@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 5:35 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1718, HB1725 and 1727

Dear Members fo teh Labor and Public Employment Committee,

I oppose HB 1718, HB 1725 and HB 1727.

Mahalo,

Charles Gill

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** siu ying or [siuyingor@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 6:07 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Requesting Your Help

Hi, my name is Siu Ying Or. I work for State Judiciary and am a member of HGEA.

I am 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.

I strongly oppose to the bills #1106,1718,1719,1725,1723,1727

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Francis\_Farrington/LEIHOKU/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 5:49 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony

To whom it may concern,

I write this email as a concerned state employee. I feel privileged to be able to serve the state of Hawaii and specifically the community of Wai'anae. But however I am deeply saddened as well as disturbed to hear of HB 1719 and the proposal to suspend contribution of funds to those who will retire as of July 1, 2009. I understand that our current economic crisis is causing a tremendous strain on all facets of our society, but we need to preserve the bond between state and employees and their community. Cutting out hard earned benefits will only weaken the relationship between state employees and their superiors. The community will in turn suffer when those who here to serve them and better their lives, are betrayed and left disheartened by the possibility of abandonment of benefits to them. I felt it necessary to make it known that I strongly denounce any proposal or support of HBs 1723, 1719, 1725 & 1727. I hope that this can contribute in anyway, to preserve the commitments made to state employees years ago.

Francis Farrington  
Special Education teacher  
Leihoku Elementary School  
Wai'anae, HI, 96707

**Chair Roads, Vice Chair Yamashita and Committee Members:**

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns on the various issues facing the State employees. As a newly hired employee, I am upset by the bills that have been introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. In particular, HB 1719, HB 1725, HB 1726 and HB 1727 which will directly affect health issues for myself and my family.

I recently left a higher paying job in private industry to work for less pay in order to make my small contribution to the community. With a smaller income, I will not be able to afford paying more for health insurance. HB 1725 states that for the period of July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2015, public employees will have to bear THE ENTIRE burden of prescription drug coverage. This is in essence a bill that is manipulating with the life and death of public workers. For myself, I am in need of prescription drug coverage to help with chronic pain management. Without medication, my quality of life will be seriously affected.

Please vote **"no"** on all of these bills that take away benefits from public employees to ensure that we can all enjoy a healthy lifestyle and leads to more productivity in the workplace.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Donna Ho [dho221@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 5:56 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1106, HB1715, HB1718, HB1719, HB1723, HB1725, HB1726, HB1727

Aloha! House Labor & Public Employee Committee,

I appreciate this opportunity to provide comments on the subject House Bills. I have been a public employee for over 12 years. I enjoy my job, and the benefits seem to keep us dedicated and motivated to continue to serve the public.

I find it very disappointing that the representative I had voted for had introduced these bills. Nevertheless, the subject bills appear to have negative impacts on public employees and our families.

Even a possible decrease in income and benefits to a large number of persons will further negatively impact businesses and the overall economy in the islands. Businesses will suffer since employees will choose to spend less especially if their future is unknown. Nonprofit organizations will have fewer volunteers and may result in offering fewer services.

HB1715 would impact our future hiring of colleagues. This will affect those qualified and skilled individuals on their decision to decide not to enter as public employees. Less pay and less benefits is not attractive.

We cannot forget to mention how the subject bills would impact our retirees and those close to retirement.

Your consideration in voting against the subject House Bills is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Donna Ho  
c 221-1400

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Kerry Holokai [kholokai@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 6:33 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Kerry Holokai and a member of HGEA, Bargaining Unit 03. I live in Ha'iku, Maui.

As a public employee for 16 years, I am truly disturbed by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically:

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.

HB 1106. I cannot afford a reduction in my salary during this time of economic strife. I am already living paycheck to paycheck, and just barely making ends meet. I 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 disappointing. I chose to work for less pay to be able to contribute to the community. Speaker Say's bill, which disregards my years of service and reduces medical benefits until the Medicare retirement age, is irresponsible. Sacrificing the health and well-being of people in the hopes that the economic crisis will be resolved is quite simply, ludicrous.

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. How odd to introduce such a bill when the rest of the nation is talking about improvements to our health care coverage.

It seems that public employees are usually the target and often the ones to blame for our State's problems. Public employees are not the problem.

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

Mahalo

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:06 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** terrypulham@msn.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1723 on 2/17/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/17/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1723

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Terry J Pulham  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 820A Kaipii St. Kailua HI 96734  
Phone: 808-779-6310  
E-mail: [terrypulham@msn.com](mailto:terrypulham@msn.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

**Comments:**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Terry J Pulham. As a public employee for 8 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1106, HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1725, HB 1723, HB 1715, 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 graduate 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 health 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.

NO to HB 1106

NO to HB 1718

NO to HB 1719

NO to HB 1725

NO to HB 1723

NO to HB 1715

NO to HB 1726

NO to HB 1727

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Donna Alalem [dalalem@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 5:47 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** REQUESTING YOU TO OPPOSE HB 1106, 1718, 1719, 1725, 1723, 1715, 1726, 1727

You Must Oppose:

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

Re: HB1715, 1716, 1719, 1720 Etc.

Representative Calvin Say's proposals are a hard, insulting b\*\*ch slap to government workers.

The threat of taking away our medical benefits and moving our acceptable retirement date to 65 will force us to retire before 6/30/09

I am a state employee with the Dept of Ed, and an HGEA Excluded Associate Member for a short 15 years. Others have dedicated 30-40 years or more.

I have worked happily underpaid and happily overworked, because I love my job and most certainly for the relatively good benefits I was promised.

My paycheck doesn't cover even minimum living expenses; retirement and social security will be minimum. I took a 30% cut coming from the private sector to the DOE primarily for the alleged security and benefits, certainly not for the salary.

I foresee Rep. Say's bills forcing out seasoned, knowledgeable employees from every part of the State Government, setting the stage systemic chaos.

It is curious that 35% pay increases for upper echelon state officials sail through unquestioned, while clerical and blue collar grunts like me--the backbone of the functioning system--are slapped with threats Calvin Say has presented.

It is curious that there are no proposals to cull the judges' and elected officials' retirement base of 3.5% compared to our 1.25%, PLUS their annuity, PLUS they may retire in only 10 years at any age.

Your proposals are an insult to government workers and political to any elected official who votes for those bills.

Thank you for your time and bandwidth,

Donna Alalem

P O Box 1151

Kapaa, HI 96746

I, Jacob Kawa'a Heffernan, **oppose the following bills** heard on Friday, February 13 and Tuesday, February 17 at 8:30 a.m. State Capitol, Room 309:

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.

**Reasons:**

*"Our committed staff strives, day-in and day-out, to provide timely, efficient and effective programs, services and benefits, for the purpose of achieving the outcomes of empowering those who are the most vulnerable in our State to expand their capacity for self-sufficiency, self determination, independence, healthy choices, quality of life and personal dignity"(Department of Human Services Vision).*

As a new Department of Human Service (DHS) employee and State worker, I believe in being part of a bigger Ohana where something "good" and honorable can continue to be done on a grander scale. Instead of being a private service provider who used to work with a dozen or so families, I can now be part of a service that impacts hundreds to thousands of families statewide. This decision to move into public service was a no-brainer, especially since it used to be common knowledge that the security and benefits were stable. The wages are not competitive, but nevertheless, it was a great decision to join DHS and make it my career to do what I love the most, which is to help others to improve their quality of lives across many challenging areas. I have never worked for an agency or department with a vision which closely matches my own. My fear is that if the aforementioned bills are passed, it will dim DHS' mission in my heart as it will in others tasked with an already difficult, yet rewarding, job to do. When considering likely repercussions in the near future, it is not farfetched to assume public service will be mediocre at best and we will be faced with bigger problems than our current economic crises. Despair and hopelessness will be far more common in our community and among our public/state employees. My hope is that state officials can nurture public and state employees to keep the flame of passion burning brightly in our efforts in positively impacting the community. Opposing the aforementioned bills is a first step in the right direction towards this nurturance that not only the community, but public and state employees need too. Thank you for your time.

With the Utmost Aloha,

Jacob K. Heffernan  
DHS employee

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Loreene Fujioka [lrfujioka@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:04 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony regarding State Employees

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

**Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Loreene Fujioka. As a public employee for over 35 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say.**

**I truly beleive it is a punitive and a travesty that your proposed solution is narrowly focusing on eliminating and/or reducing the health benefits for state workers. We have all worked long and hard and earned these benefits and to have them wiped away merely to balance the state budget is reprehensible.**

**Please look at other ways, than just penalizing the state employees by reducing and/or eliminating their dental, vision and drug benefits.**

**I truly believe that an increase of the excise/sales tax would generate millions of dollars and more than offset this anticipated deficit. This solution is "shared" by everyone in the state of Hawaii, including the tourists, not just the state employees. Food items should be exemp from the increase and be eliminated. This would lessen the pain of an increase in the tax. Hawaii has one of the lowest tax rates in the nation in comparison to other states.**

**if you look long and hard, there are other revenue generating options available including user fees, registration fees, excise tax increase on tobacco, alcohol and also increase in penalties for violation, etc. Additionally, programs that have outlived its usefulness should be evaluated and perhaps terminated.**

**Taking this simplistic approach of taking away benefits from state employees is unjust, dishonorable and shameful.**

**Speaker Say is being irresponsible for him to suggest that this economic crisis should be resolved by sacrificing the health and well being of me and my family. The state employee are not the bad guys here. We should not be taking the blame for all the short-falls of the economy.**

**Therefore, I urge you to vote NO on the following bills:**

**Friday, February 13, 2009**

**HB 1718 - Halt reimbursement for Medicare part B premiums for employees retiring after 12/31/09.**

**HB 1719 - Stop employer contribution for health benefits for those retiring after 7/1/09.**

**HB 1725 - 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 - Prohibit provision of dental and vision coverage.**

**Loreene T. Fujioka**

RE: HB 1723, 1715, 1726, 1727 1719 and 1725

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Beth Malvestiti. As a public employee, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say and strongly oppose HB 1723, 1715, 1726, 1727, 1719 and 1725.

I am a taxpayer and spend money at local businesses every day to buy food, clothing and other needs to support myself. 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. 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 with health benefits.

The bills introduced are not only reducing medical benefits but will force many people into early retirement, which will gamble with the future state programs. We will lose institutional knowledge and expertise and could jeopardize many state programs. This wealth of knowledge is not easy to recover when the state has a hiring freeze and will overburden the current workforce.

I'd like to send a strong message to Speaker Say, that he cannot punish civil servants for their dedication and commitment to the State of Hawaii. Please vote NO on all these bills that take away benefits from public employees.

Please look at other ways to balance the budget. Raising the excise tax would be a fairer way to address the state's revenue problem or implementing a lottery system and set the funds aside in a special fund for education, affordable housing or "DLNR Renaissance"!

Thank you

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Shirley M Oyama [soyama@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:01 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** NEED YOUR HELP!!!

Dear Labor & Public Employment Committee,

It is very disturbing that the legislators would want to hurt the state workers by taking away the benefits that we have looked forward to when we retire and adding additional burden to us in the future as state workers. We in the State of Hawaii are all suffering with this economy and if you pass these bills we will suffer more. These bills are not the way to go, please find another avenue to address.

**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 have worked from a young age so long ago in the state as a loyal worker waiting for my retirement and now I find that I am with a situation that I don't know what to do with my future. Please find it in your hearts not to pass this bill it will cause those who work for the state in dire need.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

Yours truly,

Shirley Oyama

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Gloria\_Ishibashi/HAWAII/DOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:13 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony

To: Labor and Public Employment Committee  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

I am a resident on the Big Island and take pride in the job that I do working for the State of Hawaii. I urge you to vote “**NO**” to the following bills HB1723, HB1715, HB1726, HB1727 HB1718, HB1719, HB1725, HB1106 which will be very devastating to many hard working families who already are struggling to make ends meet. The State needs to find other alternatives for funds and not take it out on public employees. The sector that represents me is HGEA Unit 13 and they have done a tremendous job in helping the community throughout the State. Again, please vote “**NO**” to the above bills.

Mahalo for taking the time to read this letter,

Sincerely,

*Gloria Ishibashi*  
SBBH-Keaau High school

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Rowena Estores [reestores@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:16 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony; EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov  
**Subject:** HB 1718, 1719, 1723, 1725, 1727 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

My name is Rowena Estores and I am a speech/language pathologist in Leeward District and I strongly oppose HB 1719 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. I also oppose HB 1718, 1723, 1725, & 1727 which would further cut benefits to state and county employees.

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

The State of Hawaii Department of Education has already had several lawsuits regarding the provision of special education and related services. The bills in the legislature would discourage possible hires from seeking employment as a state employee. This would further increase the shortage of speech/language pathologists which would affect the state's ability to provide federally mandated special education services to Hawaii's students.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Rowena Estores  
Speech/Language Pathologist  
State of Hawaii  
Department of Education  
Leeward District

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Steve\_Stephenson/KAUH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:48 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** Rep. Robert Herkes  
**Subject:** No on HB1723, HB1719, HB1725 and HB1727

Please register my opposition to House Bills 1723, 1719, 1725 and 1727, all of which are pending discussion or action by the House Labor & Public Employment Committee.

As a nearly 30-year employee of the State of Hawaii, I have honored every aspect of my various contracts with the Department of Education. To unilaterally withdraw State support for our medical insurance costs at this point will send a very negative message to all current and prospective employees and greatly inhibit our ability to recruit and retain effective employees in our classrooms at a time when we have a major teacher shortage in nearly all subject areas.

In my opinion, if you feel the need to cut labor costs, the appropriate action is to terminate the employment of our Superintendent of Education and all of her assistants and deputies down to and including the unending supply of Complex Area staff, and require that all remaining employees of the Department of Education teach at least one class section for a semester duration every school year and to demonstrate that they can meet or exceed every standard that we expect students to attain. I expect that major cost savings may be had by introducing similar measures in every State agency to eliminate those staff who have retired in place and those who do not demonstrate the skill sets that we demand in our lowest paid employees.

I sincerely trust that you will also send a positive message to all State employees by rejecting your own salary increases for the duration of the current financial crisis.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Dzung Thai [dtthai@ymail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:48 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1106, HB1108, HB1715, HB1718, HB1719, HB1720, HB1721, HB1722, HB1723, HB1725, and HB1727

Dear Representatives:

I am writing to express my outrage and disappointment in regards to the following House bills that would affect state worker salaries, benefits and retirement: HB 1106, HB1108, HB1715, HB1718, HB1719, HB1720, HB1721, HB1722, HB1723, HB1725, and HB1727.

These bills would place an unfair burden on the backs of state workers. There are many of us state workers, and we provide invaluable experience and service to the public. For all the important work that we do, we depend on the state's benefits because we are not compensated at the rate of those working in the private sector. By decreasing our already low salaries through furloughs, limiting employer contributions to health care benefits, and expecting us to pay for our own prescription drug coverage, dental and vision plan, many of us will not be able to make ends meet and to support our families.

Many of my coworkers close to retirement are planning on retiring early after hearing about these proposed changes to their benefits. This will place more of a burden on the staff who are left behind, who are already stretched to the limit due to the current hiring freeze. I work at the Health Department - Tuberculosis Branch. Contrary to popular opinion, in general my co-workers are dedicated, hardworking and do care about the clients we serve. Our branch provides an important public health service to the community, preventing and controlling the spread of tuberculosis. There could be disastrous consequences to the health of the public if we are expected to do more with even less staff and resources.

I am extremely disappointed in the state legislators who proposed and support these bills; I thought that they were supposed to keep the health and welfare of their constituents in mind. They need to remember that the people of Hawaii gave them this important job, and they will serve them well by listening to them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Dzung Thai

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Sandy\_Amaral/KAUH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:48 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** OPPOSITION TO HB 1719, 1723, 1725, 1727

Short and sour -

We oppose HB 1719, 1723, 1725, 1727!!!!

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** LYamamoto@dhs.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:56 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Opposition to HB Bills

**Importance:** High

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita and Committee Members:

I have been a public employee with the Department of Human Services for 28+ years. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony as I am very upset with the bills being introduced specifically, HB 1719, 1723, 1725, 1727 and 1737.

As a civil servant, I had been counting on a safe and sound retirement. With the bills that are being introduced, all my years of service along with my medical benefits for myself and my spouse are gravely jeopardized. My plans for myself and family are now up in the air as I am being forced to retire earlier than I had anticipated to.

I believe the State, as a whole, will lose many experienced and knowledgeable employees who have willingly devoted their lives to civil service and we should not be punished or targeted for our sincere dedication and commitment.

Please vote "no" on all the bills that will take away benefits from public employees.

Thank you.

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**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Cindy Terao [dumas.808@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 5:00 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** testimony

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 Cindy. I work for the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and am a member of HGEA. I'm also a taxpayer. 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. The stigma about state workers that we don't work hard is only a reflection of a few who make us look bad. We work hard, and do what we can with what we have to work with. I understand that we have to make changes, but if these bills are imposed, you will lose a lot of seasoned employees that can retire but have not due to the already struggling economy. The welfare of the people who rely upon the government agencies will be in jeopardy if we lose so many of these valuable employees all at the same time. The incentive to be a government employee will be lost. I have worked for the State for almost 18 years now and I appreciate the benefits that I have. If our out of pocket expenses for our dental, prescriptions and medical cost increase, and our pay remains the same it would be difficult to frequent the local stores for clothes, food and other items. Aren't we supposed to be trying to stimulate the economy?

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. Ensuring that pay raises are frozen across the board for ALL government personnel. Change the way of how departments are issued their budgets, "if you don't use it you lose it" When divisions are able to spend below their budgets, don't take away money from them the following year. Reward them by giving them at least the same amount to add to their balance. That would ensure that monies are not wasted on things not needed because they are afraid if they don't use it you lose it!

Things just have to be done differently, it's no longer business as usual, simple changes can make a big difference, we just have to be willing to open our eyes and try. No more "post-it" brand name items go for the generic. Everyone paying a little more will mean sharing the burden during these tough times.

Thank you,  
Cindy

## yamashita1- Kathy

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**From:** Venus\_Abihai/CAMPBELL/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:10 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Health and Retirement Benefits

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony. My name is Venus M. Abihai. As a public employee for 10 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1719, HB 1725, HB 1718, HB 1727, HB 1726

I pose this question to the Speaker: What about the disruption to us as residents of the State of Hawaii? A freeze in our salaries is already huge disruption 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 health benefits and retirement when we are some of the last remaining wage earners in this unstable economy?

I am a taxpayer who not only contributes to the State and Federal, but one who also spends money at our local businesses to buy food, clothing, and all the other necessities that my family needs on a daily basis.

As a civil servant, I chose to work for less pay to be able to contribute to my community. I believed that I would be able to count on a safe retirement and health benefits for myself and my family. 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, he (Speaker Say) is telling me that public employees don't mean much and promises made can be broken mid-stream.

Speaker Say's bill is a thinly veiled attempt at forcing people into early retirement. Making public servants choose between getting out now to afford staying healthy during retirement, or staying even longer in order to provide for their family during these tough economic times and risk losing the current level of care during their retirement. He (Speaker Say), is backing us into a corner, and it's irresponsible for him to even suggest that this economic crisis should be resolved by sacrificing the health and well being of me and my family.

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 the rising chronic diseases that require medication, this bill, coupled with talk of salary cuts and rises of 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.

I strongly encourage this committee to vote "NO" on all of these bills and to send a strong message to Speaker Say that he cannot punish civil servants for their dedication and commitment to the state of Hawaii.

Thank you,  
Venus M. Abihai

## yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** Janet [jay@mail.admrec.hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:42 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Requesting Your Help

Hi:

My name is Janet Mizuha. I wish to provide a written testimony regarding the following bills:

HB 1106, HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1725 (February 13, 2009) and  
HB 1723, HB 1726, and HB 1727

I would like for all the committee members listening to these bills to vote no on them. I have worked hard and diligently for over 30 years as a state employee and feel that I am entitled to all my benefits that are being taken away from us. The economic crisis the State of Hawaii was not caused by only state the city & county officials. Everyone in the State of Hawaii should be responsible for the economic shortfall. Why do you punish only government workers?

Some solutions to our economic problems may be solved by raising the retail state tax to 5% (This should have been done a long time ago).  
In this way, everyone would be affected by the increase and not only government workers.

Also, I do not feel right when you allow former retirees with only 5 or 10 years of service to get free medical premiums. Some of these people may not even be government workers, but spouses of employees who worked for the government. Does it make sense for a government employee with over 20 - 40 years of service to have to pay for medical premiums, while spouses of employees with 5 - 10 years of service to have free medical premiums for their spouses who never even worked for the government.

Also, since the freeze of employees who have left their positions due to promotions or retirements, we have had to work even harder. We work for the government knowing that we at least had good medical and retirement benefits. The public sector may have paid a higher salary, however, our benefits were more attractive to us.

Please look for other ways to balance the budget. As mentioned before, the shortfall in our budget was not caused by the government workers, so why are you punishing only them. I feel that everyone should be held for the shortfall from the executive branch, legislators. all government workers (state, city & county, even federal), teachers, and the PUBLIC SECTOR.

Another possible solution would be possibly bring gambling to Hawaii.

Many people travel to Las Vegas to spend lots of dollars there.  
Maybe if Hawaii provided incentives for the local people, they would possibly spend money here rather than take it elsewhere. I think more people just might spend their vacations here and on the neighbor islands, if the airfare as well as hotel accommodations and car rentals weren't exorbitantly high.

Thank you very much for taking the time to listen to my testimony.

Janet Mizuha  
A government employee

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Kevin\_Diminyatz/KAUH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:19 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** NO On HB1723 and HB1719; also HB1725 and HB1727

To whom it may concern,

ARE you guys trying to destroy education,  
and force teachers to seek other professions?

its bad enough we work for near poverty wages now.  
You want to me to pay my medical out of pocket as well?!

You have no shame,

especially after your most recent raise you gave yourselves,

I'm appalled

Kevin Diminyatz  
Teacher  
Kau High School

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Jennifer Arashiro [jarashiro@kauai.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:30 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Takeaway bills

Dear Labor Committee Members:

I'm writing to you regarding your decision on the "takeaway" bills (HB1723, HB1715, HB1726, HB1727, HB1718, HB1719, HB1725, HB1106). I am a Victim Witness Advocate with the Kaua'i County Prosecutor's Office, and a member of HGEA. I don't think it's fair for the House to be looking at ways to balance the budget on the backs of public employees. I'm also a taxpayer. I spend my money at local businesses every day to buy food, clothing and other necessities.

I work hard at my job and things are even harder now that two of my colleagues' jobs were recently terminated and demands for services have increased. I've made a career of 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.

I urge you to 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.

Thank you for your time and the job that you do ensuring that the people of Kaua'i have their voices heard and concerns addressed.

Sincerely,

*Jennifer Arashiro*

## yamashita1- Kathy

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**From:** Among, Delene [damong@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:27 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1106, HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1725, HB 1723, HB 1715, HB 1726, HB 1727

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments. My name is Delene Among, As a public servant for 19+ years. I am deeply concerned by all of the above named bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say.

I do not think that you understand the destructive impact that the our city and state will have if you pass any of

these bills, especially the bills that will force many law enforcement and civilian employees to retire, prior to

June 30, 2009. Why should we be responsible for the budget shortfall, we did not make the decisions to get into

this problem in the first place. Isn't this America, The land of the free? Where is the responsibility to protect, and

give us our free financial choices, rather than limit it to either force us into an early retirement, or stay in the

system while our paychecks are at your mercy to be dwindled away by your devistating ideas in which you make

laws thinking this plan will fix our money problems. There can only be a successful solution if there is true

accountability for the past financial failures for this state, the one that is suppose to be the state of ALOHA.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Marbeth Aquino [akau\_aquino96795@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:16 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** Lucy Akau; Rogelio Aquino; Paul Akau; Kamakana Aquino; Robert Akau  
**Subject:** AGAINST HB 1106, 1719, 1725, 1723, 1726. 1727

Aloha Kakou,

I am a state employee for 20 years and am against the above bills because it will create more advoc to Hawaii and its people. Some of us already felt the hardship of Aloha Airlines and other companies shutting down. Some of our family has to endure more problems due to these negative changes to our lives. What do you hope to accomplish when we are the core of the servicing part of government? Just because we are government employees that you can treat us like 2nd class citizen. That's not right. We are just as human like you. We have rights, too! We have family that we need to care for and buy food, bills to pay, mortgage etc... You will create more people being homeless. Is that what you want, more homelessness? The last riff, lots of your government people lost their homes, unable to pay there bills, etc...Now you want to stop our medical, dental, vision, drug coverage payments even if we don't get paid as much, furlough, take away from the retiree what they earn for their many years of service. Why do we have to pay for their mistakes? Spending and not budgeting correctly!! THAT'S NOT FAIR !!!!!

Calvin Say states that he has family, friends and himself that are affected by these bills, then why can't they find other solutions. The taxes that is suppose to go to the rail, should be given to balance the budget until we are back up to par. The rail need to be put on hold till everything is back up and running again. THAT WOULD BE A HELPFUL SOLUTION.

You as our representatives, MUST FIND BETTER SOLUTIONS NOT EASY SOLUTIONS. REMEMBER WE ALSO VOTED FOR YOU EVEN IF WE ARE GOVERNMENT WORKERS. All of you are suppose to be servants to all our people, not your escape goats.

**PLEASE FIND OTHER ALTERNATIVES!!!!!!**

MAHALO AND GOD BLESS

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Matsuda, Howard [hmatsuda@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:10 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Requesting Your Help!

Hi, my name is Howard Matsuda and I work for the Department of Planning and Permitting at the City and County of Honolulu.

I am speaking to bills HB1106, HB1718, HB1719, HB1725, HB1723, HB1726, HB1727.

I'm also a taxpayer. I spend monies 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 away these benefits from me.

Please look for other ways like excise tax which is a broader base tax to address the state's revenue problem. Everyone paying a little more will mean sharing the burden during these tough times.

Thanks you for taking this time to read these concerns,  
Howard Matsuda

## yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** miles murakoshi [milesmurakoshi@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:30 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Public Employees Benefits Testimony

My name is Miles Murakoshi.

As a public employee for 12 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB1725, HB1723, HB1727, HB1106, HB1718, HB1719, HB1715, and HB1726

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 very 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. I personally have diabetes, high blood pressure and chronic back pain that require maintenance medication daily. My wife has just been diagnosed with a possibly cancerous lung mass and Calvin Say wants to reduce the medical benefits at such trying time as this for my

family. After years of dedicated service is it fair for the medical benefits to be reduced just when I need them the most? This is literally a bill that is playing with the life and death of myself, my spouse and the entire public worker set. 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 myself and the rest of the public employees that were promised to us upon the acceptance of our employment.

## yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** Victoria Ng [vmn96720@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:29 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF HB1106, HB1719, HB1725, AND HB1727

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

Aloha kakou. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit testimony with regards to the above-mentioned bills. My name is Victoria Ng. I am a civil servant employee and have worked for the County government for the past seven years. I am greatly distressed about the bills introduced by Calvin Say and feel I must voice my opposition. I am outraged at the continuous attacks and burdens being placed upon the hardworking middle-class employees. We are faced daily with budget cutbacks, rising costs of utilities, food and every basic commodity needed to just "live", gas prices are going back up, we now have to worry about making less money as well as being penalized financially with higher medical, dental, and educational costs. How much more can we shoulder? Legislation has already been addressed regarding raising vehicle registration costs adding to our further frustrations and feelings of hopelessness. Our government legislators seem to be more interested in fixing "their" woes with how "we, the people" are going to have to pay to fix it. Would you, Mr. Say, consider taking less pay than what you're currently making with a freeze on any and all raises indefinitely? Would you, Mr. Say, happily consent to a mandatory furlough without pay? Would you, Mr. Say, be willing to carry the same medical/dental/drug plans that we, the everyday civil servants have? Would you, Mr. Say, be able to survive in this economy today if you had the same pay wage that we do? Would you, Mr. Say, be able to adjust to living on \$30,000 a year without any government perks and other contingencies? Are you, Mr. Say, under the fear that you could lose your job at any given second? Are you, Mr. Say, willing to put more people on the streets or living in parks or beaches? Are you, Mr. Say, able to face the elderly, handicapped or sick people that are forced to sleep on park benches or roaming the city streets? Will you, Mr. Say, be able to face the children who will also ultimately lose because we, the parents, cannot afford or provide for their basic needs? I am and have always been proud to be called a "civil servant" and I take great pride in the work I do for the County of Hawai'i. I can only hope and pray that you as well as all our elected officials would look at themselves in making adjustments, taking pay cuts, furloughing legislative meetings and sessions, decreasing the number of legislators, tightening your belts, foregoing luxuries, bonuses/perks, traveling, contingency funds, etc., as well instead of looking only to burden us, the people of these islands, more and more. Again, Mahalo Nui for allowing me this opportunity. Who knows, should these bills pass, I may not be able to afford even this luxury. Your Humble Civil Servant ~ VNg

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Barbara Lee Lee [bayul25@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:50 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** prooposed health, insurance cuts

2.12.2009

Aloha Labor Committee members,

Hi, my name is Barbara Lee and I live on the Big Island. I work for the DOE in the Ka'u District and am a member of HGEA.

Being a tax payer, I purchase goods and services from local businesses e.g., food, clothing, gas etc. I am quite concerned about the proposed cuts - HB 1723, HB 1715, HB 1726, HB 1727, HB 1719, AND HB 1725. I would like for alternative methods to be considered such as raising the excise tax as a more equitable way to address the state's revenue problems, freezes and increase demand for services.

I want to preserve my benefits for which I've worked 25 yrs. as a state employee.

Thank you for seriously considering my request.

Barbara Lee  
School Based Specialist

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Sue Okada [sueann@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:39 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** opposition of bills

Dear Labor and Public Employment Committee,

I have been a proud State worker for over 20 years. It has been an honor working for the State of Hawaii, and a privilege. I work on Kauai, at Kauai Community College. It's been a wonderful job, and I have spent many a happy and good bunch of years being employed here.

However, the news about these bills that may affect our health and retirement benefits are very harsh. Please, please do not allow these bills to be passed.

The bills are:

- 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.

We have worked and served with good faith. Please help us, and do not pass these bills.

with best regards, Sue Okada

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Erik Shuman [erikshum67@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:32 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** House Bills Relating to Benefits

House Labor and Public Employee Committee,

Aloha,

My Name is Erik Shuman and I am a writing you regarding House Bills HB1106, HB 1718, HB 1719, HB1725, HB1723, HB1715, HB1726, HB1727 which your committee is scheduled to consider on 2/13/09 and 2/17/09.

I urge each and every member of your committee to vote NO on these bills. There is no doubt that these are tough times financially for everyone in the State. However, targeting the the benefits of the State's working class peoples is a "knee jerk" reaction to problems that call for thinking out of the box and thoughtful solutions. The long term ramifications of the passing of this bill will be felt by our Kupuna long after these hard times have come and gone. Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this manner.

Mahalo,

Erik Shuman

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Gemma Pytel [konagem@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 5:16 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Requesting for help

To All the representatives,

My name is Gemma Pytel, I live here in the Big Island Hawaii. I work for Kona Community Hospital and an HGEA member.

I am appealing to all of you to be considerate and put yourselves in our shoes if HB1725,HB1723,HB1715,HB1726 and HB1727 passed the legislatures. All of us here in our hospital are very concern and afraid because of what will to happen to us if this bills went through.

Are there any other measures to consider? Nowadays everything are very expensive here in Hawaii, we already struggle to meet our everyday needs. Maybe raising the tax is not a bad idea, but to take away our dental,vision,prescription and so on are very inhuman.

In behalf of my coworkers in Kona Hospital, please listen to our voices. We need your help and please vote **NO** to all of this..

Thank you for listening,

Gemma Pytel

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Wendell and Gabriella Cabanas [cabanasw001@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 6:47 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1723, HB 1725, HB 1726, and HB 1727  
**Importance:** High

Dear Chair Karl Rhoads and Members of the Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

I am a government managerial employee and currently have a total of 34+ years of service. I am humbly requesting that you do not support HB 1723, HB 1725, HB 1726, and HB 1727 which are bills designed to cut the benefits of thousands of existing government employees. We work for government because of a desire to serve the public. We receive modest wages with the promise of reasonable benefits and job security. We don't work for government to get rich.

I have 2 children who will be in college, one is pursuing her master's degree and the other will be starting his undergraduate education. My husband is retired from the State. To cut our benefits that were part of our employment package when the job was offered to us many years ago is not the thing to do. To eliminate our health care and retirement benefits is cutting the rug from under us – the impact will be catastrophic for thousands. Why take away benefits that were promised us when we first starting working many years ago? Please place yourselves in our shoes. Many of us are close to retiring and we can't afford to not have these benefits.

I'm sure there are other ways to address the financial woes of the State. Please look at other options. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my concerns.

Gabriella M. Cabanas

Employee – County of Hawai'i

## yamashita1- Kathy

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**From:** Adrienne Sentell [microhi@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 6:45 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1725 Hearing, Tuesday, February 17, at 8:30 a.m.

To: The House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Re: *HB1725* Hearing, Tuesday, February 17, at 8:30 a.m.

I request that you vote against *HB1725*. As a community college science instructor for Hawaii's next generation, I am a public servant. I take my responsibilities very seriously and hope that the State acknowledges my essential contribution to our society. Hawaii's youth are already disadvantaged if they have had to attend most of our public schools. The community college allows them an opportunity to develop skills that the public schools fail to teach them (for whatever reason). I spend a considerable amount of time outside of the classroom helping my students individually and designing class content that enables the students to develop learning, study, and life skills (e.g., nutrition).

I am a public servant. My students need me to help them get ahead in life and not fall prey to the local status quo of low paying jobs, illegal drugs, etc. I have asthma and allergies. These are not diseases that one can control at will, as is the case with certain types of diabetes, high blood pressure, etc. And even with controllable diseases, sometimes people NEED medicine while they are implementing lifestyle changes. I cannot control the pollen, mold, VOG, etc. To a limited extent, all I can do is control my disease. Asthma is a potentially life-threatening illness. My students need me to breathe and to be healthy.

Asthma medications are EXPENSIVE and medication needs to be readily available for sudden attacks. In addition, inhaled steroids help reduce the number and severity of attacks. All these medications are expensive, but necessary for an asthmatic to LIVE, let alone perform well at one's job. I already pay high copayments for the right asthma medications for me. I have had to pay full price for a "spacer," which is a device that helps deliver the medication to the lungs, rather than having it land on the tongue where it is useless. The spacer was not covered (cost \$65) and now it is being considered that my asthma medication will not be covered at all by the State that I serve? Does this make sense? I am a public servant.

What about the many others who need certain medications to function? Some people cannot live without asthma medicine. Some people cannot function well because they need other types of medications for diseases that are beyond their control. For example, what about the female public servant who is perimenopausal? And therefore, can't function without hormone treatments due to fatigue and dizziness.

By denying prescription benefits to public servants, the State is in a sense disabling its own workforce. Also, why are we forced to put money into a mandatory retirement fund if we may need that money in the present to buy medication or get our teeth fixed? Have you given up your prescription drug benefits as an elected official who is proposing to take away that of other public servants? Have you given up ANY benefits that our tax dollars pay for? What is pono?

Even if EUTF members are offered group rates, the fact that we would have to pay our full premium is just another chipping away at our already gouged paychecks. This means less money for EUTF individuals to provide for their families, save for the future, and pump into the local economy. In addition, finding an insurance carrier may be difficult because there needs to be assurance that a large number of employees will participate.

Furthermore, how does the State expect to attract and keep high quality public servant leaders in Hawaii? How does the State expect Hawaii's next generation of public servant leaders to be trained if there are few competent and healthy ones to lead them?

Please consider how this bill, if passed, will affect the present and future of Hawaii's economy, workforce, and youths. Please consider my contribution to the future of Hawaii's youths and vote against *HB1725*. The outcome of this issue will affect how I vote for governor in the next election. Even though I voted for Governor Lingle, I will not vote for Duke Aiona, or anyone else involved in the passing of this bill, if my benefits are lost.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Adrienne Sentell  
Lecturer CC, Math and Science Division  
Leeward Community College

My name is Helen Hamada. I am employed at the University of Hawaii, Kapiolani Community College and am an HGEA member. I speak against House bills 1723, 1725, 1715, 1726 and 1727.

I am also a private citizen, one of seven who sits on the Honolulu Police Commission. I do not speak on behalf of the Commission, however, I do want to share what I have learned about the men and women in blue who put their lives on the line to protect the citizens of Honolulu.

We are all concerned about keeping ourselves, our families and friends safe from crime. Through the Police Academy, then years of on-the-job training, and additionally, in some cases, through specialized FBI and DEA training, police officers are well equipped to deal with the enormous task of maintaining public safety. For example, officers in Vice/Narcotics go through 18 months of training before they can go out on the streets and then it is under a veil of secrecy to protect themselves and their team members. During this time, their families do not see nor hear from them much, if at all. It would be a shame if all this valuable training goes down the tube when members find that these take-away bills affect their paychecks. These bills, will likely force many to reconsider whether they can afford to work for the police department which will compromise the safety and well being of law-abiding citizens.

These bills will also affect all of our members in HGEA who work hard to provide the state's services. One such group of employees are the Deputy Sheriffs. Besides serving the Department of the Attorney General's office and the Judiciary, these law enforcement officers are charged with protecting the Governor and Lt. Governor. If, as in all other areas of government, Deputy Sheriffs are forced to pay for health benefits, or applicants turn down these jobs because of the reduction in retirement benefits, there will be a significant gap in security.

We all know that crime tends to increase during times of economic downturn. Is it really in our best interest to take away benefits from these law enforcement officers at a time when they are most needed? You are our elected officials charged with making these decisions. I ask that you do the right thing and vote no on these bills that will negatively affect our public safety.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:07 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Higa and I am a teacher at Intensive Learning Center Leeward Sped SBBH. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Higa Lyndsey

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** koloke [koloke@hawaiianisp.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:08 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** House Bills: 1725, 1723, 1726, 1727

HB1725 – Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF;  
HB1723 – Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable;  
HB1726 – Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits;  
HB1727 – Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage.

As a recently retired registered nurse here on Maui, I would like to voice my opposition to the passage of any one of the listed bills that you are considering. At an age when access to life saving medication is imperative, you are considering eliminating it. At a time when it is imperative that labor and management work together, you are considering a bill that dictates non-negotiation. Curtailing the EUTF for life insurance benefits for retirees is guaranteed to put a great strain on survivors. Especially when you consider that the premium has already been reduced from \$36,000 (working) to \$2,500 (retirement benefit).

Dental benefits for retirees has already been halved to \$1,000 per annum and you are considering doing away with it all together. I know that my family has make sacrifices in my taking a lesser paying job working for the state in anticipation of a better retirement package. And that was a major factor in our deciding to work at Maui Memorial Medical Center. With the nursing shortage what it is I think I would be careful in deciding to depreciate the one attractive inticement to working as a nurse in the state system.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Richard D. Standard, R.N.

808-874-0176

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:11 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Patricia and I am a teacher at Keonepoko Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Shillingford

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:12 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lois and I am a teacher at Kau-Keaau-Complex Area. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Lois Wakida

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:12 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Carol and I am a teacher at The Office of Human Resources. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Carol Anton

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:15 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alna and I am a teacher at Kekaha Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Alna Mecham

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:16 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kim and I am a teacher at Chiefess Kapi'olani Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Kim Springer

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:16 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Karrie and I am a teacher at Waianae High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Karrie Sellers Arquette

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:20 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Florine and I am a teacher at Manoa. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Florine Nakasone

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:21 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Judith and I am a teacher at retired from Kealakehe Intermediate. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Judith Heath

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:21 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Florine and I am a teacher at Manoa. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Florine Nakasone

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:21 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kelly and I am a teacher at Kihei. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Kelly Duell

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:22 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Diane and I am a teacher at Kealakehe Intermediate Retired. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Diane McCary

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:31 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ronald and I am a teacher at State RT. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Ronald Yoshimoto

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:32 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mike and I am a teacher at McKinley High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Mike Lucich

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:33 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Carol and I am a teacher at Lahaina Intermediate. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Carol Monaghan

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:36 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Theodore and I am a teacher at Pahoehoe High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Theodore Banta

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:36 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sonja and I am a teacher at Kamiloiki. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Sonja Johnson

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:37 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Suzanne and I am a teacher at maemae. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Brauer

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:42 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Carol and I am a teacher at Lahaina Intermediate. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Carol Monaghan

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:48 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michelle and I am a teacher at Keone'ula Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Bagaoisan

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:55 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lauren and I am a teacher at Chiefess Kamakahahei Middle School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Lauren Disel

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:56 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lauren and I am a teacher at Chiefess Kamakahahei Middle School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Lauren Diesel

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Linda Changl [changl056@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 12:40 PM  
**To:** PBStestimony; LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1725; HB1723: HB1726; HB1727

**Importance:** High

TO:

REP KARL RHOADS, CHAIR  
REP. KYLE YANASHITA, VICE CHAIR  
REP. HENRY AQUINO  
REP. KAREN AWANA  
REP. RAYE HANOHANO  
REP. GILBERT KEITH-AGARAN  
REP. MARILYN LEE  
REP. MARK NAKASHIMA  
REP. JOE SOUKI  
REP. ROY TAKUMI  
REP. KYMBERLY PINE

I AM OPPOSED TO ANY ALTERATION OF THE HOUSE BILLS LISTED ABOVE THAT WILL CHANGE ANY OF THE HEALTH AND PENSION BENEFITS THAT RETIREES CURRENTLY ARE ENTITLED TO AND ARE CURRENTLY RECEIVING. YES, OUR STATE AND THE NATION IS EXPERIENCING TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES, BUT IF YOU CONSIDER CUTTING THE BENEFITS OF PENSIONERS WHO WORKED HARD TO EARN THESE BENEFITS AS WAS OFFERED TO ALL OF US WHEN WE MADE OUR DECISION TO WORK FOR OUR STATE OF HAWAII GOVERNMENT, YOU WILL BE DOING A GRAVE INJUSTICE TO US SENIORS WHO WORKED SO HARD TO EARN THESE BENEFITS AS PROMISED BY OUR STATE. HOW IS A REDUCTION OF ANY SORT GOING TO IMPACT THOSE RETIREES WHO CURRENTLY RELY ON THEIR BENEFITS TO PAY FOR THEIR MEDICAL CARE AND/OR RESIDENCY AT LONG TERM FACILITIES AND AT CARE HOMES? AS FOR RETIREES WHO WILL NEED SKILLED NURSING FACILITY AND LONG TERM CARE IN THE FUTURE, DO YOU EXPECT US TO APPLY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES TO PAY FOR OUR ADMISSION TO THESE FACILITIES.?

**SUGGESTION TO BUILD OUR STATE TREASURY:** AUTHORIZE THE STATE AUDITOR AND PRIVATE AUDITORS TO AUDIT EVERY DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE STATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF IDENTIFYING EXCESS AND WASTEFUL SPENDING, INCLUDING (FEDERAL) GOVERNMENT FUNDING THAT WAS CARELESSLY ALLOWED TO LAPSE AND THEREFORE LOST. AS A PRECEDENT TO INTRODUCING 'THE BILL', GIVE THE GOVERNOR AND EACH DEPARTMENT THE COURTESY OF ADVANCE NOTICE. THEY WILL REACT BY CUTTING THE "DEAD WOOD" SO FAST THAT THE STATE TREASURY WILL BUILD UP WITHOUT HAVING TO PAY ALL THOSE SALARIES FOR **CRONIES** WHO FAIL TO PERFORM ANY MEANINGFUL FUNCTION OF 'GOVERNMENT SERVICE'.

ALL OF YOU ARE AWARE THAT THIS KIND OF SPENDING EXISTS IN OUR STATE GOVERNMENT. LOOK THERE FOR WAYS TO LESSEN THE STRAIN ON OUR STATE COFFERS. STOP PENALIZING THE RETIREES (AGED AND INAPACITATED) AND THE HARD-WORKING STATE EMPLOYEES. LOOK ELSEWHERE TO CHOP FUNDING. WE PAID OUR DUES AT THE WORKPLACE.

I RESIDE ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII, AND AM UNABLE TO ATTEND THE HEARING NOR TO BE PRESENT TO MARCH WITH MY FELLOW RETIREES.

I RESPECTFULLY THANK YOU FOR ACCEPTING MY TESTIMONY.



**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 9:02 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Diane and I am a teacher at Baldwin. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Diane Diehl

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 12:35 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michelle and I am a teacher at Moanalua High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Shin

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 9:04 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Barbara and I am a teacher at Windward District Office. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Pretty

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 9:14 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Glenn and I am a teacher at Royal Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Glenn Fernandez

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 12:18 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Clarita and I am a teacher at Keaau Elem. School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Clarita Maneja

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 9:18 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sherri and I am a teacher at Waimea Middle Public Conversion Charter School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Sherri Takamoto

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 12:17 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ruth and I am a teacher at Keaukaha Elem. School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Jarneski

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 9:21 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sharon and I am a teacher at Waimanalo Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Sharon Lieberman

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 12:13 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ahulani and I am a teacher at Chiefess Kapiolani School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Ahulani Haleamau-Kahawai

## **yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** sassysc95@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 9:23 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Yvette DePonte. As a public employee for 5 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say.

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

Sincerely,

Yvette De Ponte

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

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 12:10 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tobias and I am a teacher at Wahiawa Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Tobias Duffy

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 9:27 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is David and I am a teacher at Maui High. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
David Hughes

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 11:58 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Karen and I am a teacher at Kailua Intermediate School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Karen Kutsunai

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 9:30 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tiffany and I am a teacher at Pearl Ridge Elementary School . I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Tiffany Tawata

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 9:34 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Diane and I am a teacher at Kealakehe Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Diane Aoki

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 11:54 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Marsha and I am a teacher at Honoka'a High & Intermediate School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Marsha Clement

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 11:01 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lynn and I am a teacher at Nanakuli Elem. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Lynn Hasegawa

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 9:36 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Wilfred and I am a teacher at Dole Middle School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Wilfred Kusaka

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** edna mukai [mukaiedna@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 10:49 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Legislative Concerns - HB Nos. 1106, 1719, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1725 and 1727

**Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee**

**My name is Edna Mukai, a civil service employee who recently retired after 35 years (continuous) of service with the State of Hawaii. I am also proud to say that I am a member of HGEA, the organization that helped us to progress in both the work place and in our personal lives in such a way that we could perform our duties to the best of our abilities thereby "making a difference" in the quality of service provided by us to the people of this State. I have some very strong concerns about some of the bills which are being introduced/supported by Speaker Calvin Say.**

**HB No. 1106**

**Furloughs should not be a consideration.....There is already concern re the "bodies" available to provide required services to the people of this State, and the freezing of vacant positions have only added to this problem. Furloughs, then, would only guarantee that the needs of the general public would not be adequately provided for.**

**HB Nos. 1719, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1725, 1727**

**For most of us who were not in "administrative" positions, we worked diligently to serve the public for salaries that were well below salaries paid to employees in private enterprises. Further, monetary bonuses were not a consideration with public service as in private enterprise (year-end, job well performed, etc.). For the most part, many of us decided to become public servants because we worked in positions for which we had the proper skills/background, and went to work each day knowing that we would be compensated with a paycheck which supported the daily needs of ourselves and our families. Because our salaries were not comparable with private enterprise, we took great comfort in the BENEFITS which were more than a mere "perk" to our livelihood. These benefits supported us in good times and bad (as when civil servants were not given pay increases in order to help save the State's economy, and pay increases were only given to YOU – our elected officials who claimed during campaigns past that your only interest was in trying to make life better for the people of the State of Hawaii, not to make more money for yourselves).**

**Like most/all of our elected representatives, most of us work full time jobs (some having to work part-time as well) and spend whatever time we have left in activities with our families/loved ones.....irreplaceable quality time. We DEPEND on the benefits we EARN while active at work and even later, after we retire, following years of public service to which we dedicated ourselves. These benefits become even more critical once one has retired and is now faced with a "fixed income." In general, we realize that many of you have full-time jobs or a business to fall back on, as your seat as a Representative for the people of this State is in fact a "part-time" job you ELECT to take on with full knowledge of the time constraints/work involved – a job for which you also enjoy a generous monetary compensation.**

**Public servants are also taxpayers who support the State/City governments; many of us are the voters who you can thank for helping you attain the office you sought and now sit in. I believe this is a good time for you to "go to bat" and HELP US RETAIN THESE BENEFITS for which we not only worked for, but had to fight so hard to acquire.**

**Please look for other ways to balance the State's budget woes. Other states have raised their excise taxes in an effort to pull themselves up – can we do the same? This would be a much FAIRER consideration as it would affect EVERYONE and the monies generated would benefit EVERYONE.....rather than to unfairly "target" a particular group to make all the sacrifices.**

**PLEASE VOTE "NO" ON ALL THE BILLS THAT TAKE AWAY BENEFITS FROM PUBLIC EMPLOYEES.**

**Thank you!**

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 9:42 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Carl and I am a teacher at Konawaena High. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Carl Ciriako

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 10:43 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Isabella Noelani and I am a teacher at Kaumana Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Isabella Noelani Spencer

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 9:44 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is charlotte and I am a teacher at innovations charter school. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
charlotte davis

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 10:34 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Carolina and I am a teacher at Keone'ula Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Carolina Cariaga-Camacho

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** lynn tagawa [tagawal001@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 9:44 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725

Testimony for HB1725

Hi, my name is Lynn Tagawa, and I work for the DOE, Nanakuli/Waianae Complex and am a member of HGEA.

I'm also a taxpayer. I spend money at local businesses everyday 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.

Thank you,

Lynn Tagawa

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 10:25 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dorothea and I am a teacher at Pahoa Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Dorothea Fendentz

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 10:16 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Marilyn and I am a teacher at Kahuku High and Intermediate. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Marilyn Roitman

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 10:12 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jackie and I am a teacher at Kula Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Jackie Davis

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 9:56 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Julie and I am a teacher at Makawao. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Julie Vandervoort

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 9:49 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Suzanne and I am a teacher at Waiakeawaena. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Ochi

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 9:49 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is robert and I am a teacher at Moanalua middle school. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
robert walker

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 9:42 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is crista and I am a teacher at ilima intermediate. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
crista mendoza

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 9:41 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Karen and I am a teacher at n/a. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Karen Murray

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 9:40 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Terry and I am a teacher at Kauai High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Terry Low

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 9:39 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ann and I am a teacher at Kihei Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Ann Anusewicz

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 9:39 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Diane and I am a teacher at S.E. Kalama Intermediate. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Diane Banks

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 9:37 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Cindy and I am a teacher at Maunawili Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Cindy Searfoss

## yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** BATA [bata-777@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 9:29 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* FW: Bills affecting state employee benefits

Subject: HB 1106, 1718, 1719, 1725, 1723, 1715, 1726, 1727

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Honorable Labor Committee,

Please DO NOT support any bills that take away state employee benefits. My wife and I both work for the state. We are not being selfish. A lot of good, upper management workers will choose to retire immediately instead of losing benefits. All of their knowledge, history, and abilities will be lost without properly training the younger generations. Worst yet, the state will have to pay off their vacation days soon after. Furlough (through collective bargaining) is more appropriate where everybody will share the pain.

The only way to make up the projected MAJOR shortfalls is to raise taxes so that EVERYBODY will share the pain (with the help of tourists and military). If they can pay for it, then they can afford it!!

P.S. If upper management retires because of any reduction in benefits, I (Corey) will most likely be promoted to fill their vacant slots. However, I will consider leaving state government too at age 39, with 13 years of service, just to preserve my retirement benefits. If the government plan to take the lead on stimulating the economy, then the government need to ensure that good, competent workers are available.

Yours Truly,  
Corey and Lori Shibata  
1304 Naulu Place  
Honoulu, HI 96818

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See how Windows Mobile brings your life together—at home, work, or on the go. [See Now](#)

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Want to do more with Windows Live? Learn "10 hidden secrets" from Jamie. [Learn Now](#)

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Tracy Oshita [tanigirl007@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 9:22 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Taking Away Benefits

House Labor Committee,

Re: House Bills 1723, 1725, 1726, 1727

I know that the State is having a hard time balancing the budget and it looks like it will only worsen during the next couple of years. People working in the private sector are saying that like them, the State must reduce wages and benefits for its employees.

However, I do not believe it is fair to balance the budget on the backs of the public employees alone. If everyone must work together then we as a State, all need to tighten our belts to ensure that services are kept and maintained for the public while allowing the public employees to keep the benefits that were promised them.

I have chosen to work as a public employee with less pay than in the private sector with the knowledge that what I was not getting paid for in salary, I was getting in benefits. Please do not take these benefits away and find other ways to balance the budget.

Thank you for hearing my testimony.

Tracy Oshita

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 9:03 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lisa and I am a teacher at Castle High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Vegas

You Must Oppose:

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

Re: HB1715, 1716, 1719, 1720 Etc.

Representative Calvin Say's proposals are a hard, insulting b\*\*ch slap to government workers.

The threat of taking away our medical benefits and moving our acceptable retirement date to 65 will force us to retire before 6/30/09

I am a state employee with the Dept of Ed, and an HGEA Excluded Associate Member for a short 15 years. Others have dedicated 30-40 years or more.

I have worked happily underpaid and happily overworked, because I love my job and most certainly for the relatively good benefits I was promised.

My paycheck doesn't cover even minimum living expenses; retirement and social security will be minimum. I took a 30% cut coming from the private sector to the DOE primarily for the alleged security and benefits, certainly not for the salary.

I foresee Rep. Say's bills forcing out seasoned, knowledgeable employees from every part of the State Government, setting the stage systemic chaos.

It is curious that 35% pay increases for upper echelon state officials sail through unquestioned, while clerical and blue collar grunts like me--the backbone of the functioning system--are slapped with threats Calvin Say has presented.

It is curious that there are no proposals to cull the judges' and elected officials' retirement base of 3.5% compared to our 1.25%, PLUS their annuity, PLUS they may retire in only 10 years at any age.

The proposals are an insult to government workers and political to any elected official who votes for those bills.

Thank you for your time and bandwidth,

Donna Alalem

P O Box 1151

Kapaa, HI 96746

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 10:21 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is John and I am a teacher at Kahuku High & Intermediate. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
John Jacques

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 10:23 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kathleen and I am a teacher at Keone'ula Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Infiesto

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 10:23 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lauren and I am a teacher at Kanoelani Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Lauren An

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 10:26 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sybil and I am a teacher at Farrington High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Sybil Hamada

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 10:30 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Charles and I am a teacher at WHEELER INTERMEDIATE. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Charles Overman

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 10:35 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is vijay and I am a teacher at Kam. III. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
vijay Thangaraj

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 8:38 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lyanne and I am a teacher at Roosevelt High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Lyanne Iwamoto

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 11:04 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sara and I am a teacher at Nuuanu. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Sara Drost

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 11:05 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Peter and I am a teacher at Roosevelt High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Peter Coleman

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 8:38 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gloria and I am a teacher at Waiakeawaena Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Gloria Phillips-Jones

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 8:37 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Laurie and I am a teacher at Waikiki. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Laurie Yamamoto

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 8:36 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jaclyn and I am a teacher at Makaha. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Jaclyn Wills

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 8:35 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is jon and I am a teacher at kalakaua middle. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
jon tillery

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 11:09 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kelvin and I am a teacher at Nuuanu. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Kelvin Chun

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 8:31 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Saofai and I am a teacher at Waianae High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Saofai Lowe

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 11:16 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is William and I am a teacher at Washington Middle. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
William Hardin

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 8:02 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sandra and I am a teacher at Chiefess Kapiolani Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Sandra Munekata

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 7:59 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lori and I am a teacher at Pearl City Highlands Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Lori Teixeira

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 7:05 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Laura and I am a teacher at Waianae Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Laura Beidleman

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 11:18 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Wendy and I am a teacher at OCISS. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Wendy Larrow

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 11:26 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Elsie and I am a teacher at Likelike Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Elsie Gushiken

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 6:59 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dorothy and I am a teacher at Kealakehe Elem.. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Dorothy Blinn

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 6:49 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Linda and I am a teacher at Henry Perrine Baldwin High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Linda Coleon

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 11:30 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dayle and I am a teacher at Kealakehe Intermediate. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Dayle Yokoyama

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 11:19 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Joan and I am a teacher at Moanalua Elem.. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Joan Miyasato

## **yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** etaira [etaira@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 11:43 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1725/HB1723/HB1715/HB1726/HB1727

**Dear Committee Members:**

- **Rep Karl Rhoads, Chair**
- **Rep Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair**
- **Rep. Henry Aquino**
- **Rep. Karen Awana**
- **Rep. Faye Hanohano**
- **Rep. Gilbert Keith-Agaran**
- **Rep. Marilyn Lee**
- **Rep. Mark Nakashima**
- **Rep. Scott Saiki**
- **Rep. Joe Souki**
- **Rep. Roy Takumi**
- **Rep. Kymberly Pine**

Thank you for not taking away retirement benefits for public employees. You are setting an example for the word "honor", by keeping your promises and commitments for the things we have believed the State of Hawaii for and have worked for in agreement with the State for most of our work lives. Personally, I have worked for the State of Hawaii for 17 years and am looking forward to retirement in 6 years.

This is a season where we must use all of the gifts and talents of everyone who is able to help to put this economy back on track. There must be better ways to balance the budget. Rather than lay people off and discourage people from working by not keeping your word, we need to change wrong mindsets about good, honest, hard work, and teach people to work smarter. We need to teach people to work, to accept responsibility for themselves, and to think of others.

My husband retired 3 months ago. He is 57 years old. He has a proven work record in his job for over 33 years and has a treasure chest of skills that has been learned over years of work that could be used to help us get through these troubled times. My daughter has been unemployed since last August, being discharged from 10 years of active duty in the Navy. She is a single parent with 2 children. Hopefully, she will be back to work soon. Our son, with a family of 4, is employed, but also needs help financially. We help our children, grandchildren, elderly parents, and elderly widowed aunts and uncles by cooking, cleaning yards, painting houses, baby sitting, and running errands for others in addition to taking care of our own selves on our holidays and other days off.

In addition to contributing to our communities by the work we do, State and County workers are the ones who help their families, donate to the United Way, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, churches, community organizations, help in school fund raisers, and so forth. If our work hours, pay, and benefits are cut, we will not be able to help a lot of other people we have been helping. Laying people off and furloughing State and County workers will adversely affect our whole State.

I respectfully ask you to consider voting against reducing benefits for State and County employees specifically pertaining to these bills:

**HB1725 – Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF;**  
**HB1723 – Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable (health care);**  
**HB1715 – Increase, for new employees, the age and service time requirement to retire (future generations: you child, grandchild, etc.);**

**HB1726 – Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits;  
HB1727 – Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage.**

**Thank you.  
Susan Taira**

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 11:54 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mark and I am a teacher at 96606. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Mark Alsbergas

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 11:55 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Vanessa and I am a teacher at Mililani Uka Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Vanessa Melendez Makimoto

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 10:37 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** tamiwata01@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725 on 2/17/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/17/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1725

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Tami Watanabe  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [tamiwata01@yahoo.com](mailto:tamiwata01@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/15/2009

Comments:

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 2:56 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Isi and I am a teacher at Highlands Intermediate. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Isi Nau

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 3:30 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lynn and I am a teacher at Ala Wai Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Lynn Miyashiro

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 10:11 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kelly and I am a teacher at Liholiho. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Kelly Lopes

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 10:04 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** thesuze19@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725 on 2/17/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/17/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1725

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Susan Higa  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 5373 Keikilani Circle Honolulu, HI  
Phone: 377-0831  
E-mail: [thesuze19@hotmail.com](mailto:thesuze19@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/15/2009

Comments:

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 9:56 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dawn and I am a teacher at ISB/HSLPS. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Dawn Sang

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** Disamif@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 9:40 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony on House Bills 1715 1723, 1725, 1726, and 1727

To: Labor & Public Employment Committee  
Re: House Bills 1715, 1723, 1725, 1726, and 1727

Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Kyle Yamashita, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and oppose the bills listed above.

I am a retired state worker with 31 years of service. I am presently physically incapacitated, and I have a spouse with a chronic illness. I am concerned about the bills as anti-public employee and targeting the vulnerable retirees. I am very worried about the bills that would eliminate needed medical insurance coverage. Please support your public workers and government retirees and vote "no."

Mahalo,  
Earline Funakoshi

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

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 9:33 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Curtis and I am a teacher at James Campbell High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Curtis Matsushige

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 9:16 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sue Ann and I am a teacher at Webling Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Sue Ann Goshima

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** Nancy Wassman [wassmann001@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 8:30 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Legislature Bills

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

**My name is Nancy Wassman. As a public employee for 4 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically HB 1725, HB 1727, and HB 1719.**

**Please stop the targeting of public employees in relation to the new bills that are being introduced.** We desperately need our benefits, medical, dental, vision, and drugs now and for retirement. We are already paying a portion of them each month. We don't make enough money to pay for these entirely on our own. By having jobs and working, we will not qualify for any state assistance and will therefore end up not being able to seek medical attention when we need it. I am 60, my husband, also a City and County worker, age 58, are at an age where we need medical and drug benefits and are not able to retire any time soon. We took lower paying county jobs for the benefits and are trying to plan for our future with retirement.

My department DAI-B, the archive records division of the building department has already been suffering with budget cuts. Come see the unsafe crowded working conditions we work in because there is no space available for the important records and plans we store and make available daily to the public. We still come to work and gladly serve the public each and every day in spite of the bad working conditions. Now people want our benefits taken so we can suffer? Oahu is already paying taxes that other counties aren't paying to help out the state.

All salaries could have a freeze for now but as a lower income family, my husband and I both have a second job to make ends meet. We are all one step away from being homeless and now you want to take our benefits away which are an important part of this job. My husband and I can't afford to own a house, we drive a used car, I take the bus, we live within our small budget and have taken only one real vacation in 7 years. We took these jobs because we thought there would be a security as we aged.

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

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 8:16 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mara and I am a teacher at Waiakeawaena. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Mara Saltzman

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 7:57 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Colleen and I am a teacher at Waiakea High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Colleen Ray

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 7:57 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ross and I am a teacher at S.W. King Intermediate. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Ross Takahashi

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 7:54 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Joan and I am a teacher at Pukalani. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Joan Slattery

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 7:44 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Howard and I am a teacher at Molokai Middle School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Howard Selnick

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 7:27 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alan and I am a teacher at Leilehua. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Alan Kinoshita

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 7:21 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lisa and I am a teacher at Waimea Canyon Middle School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Nishizuka

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 6:53 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is susan and I am a teacher at nahienaena. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
susan kasper

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 6:50 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Pamela and I am a teacher at Kalaniana'ole. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Pamela Wilson

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 6:49 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Russell and I am a teacher at Webling. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF. trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Russell Abe

## yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** Susan Werner [werners002@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 6:44 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Opposing bills taking benefits from Union workers

To Labor Committee Members:      Rep Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Rep Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair  
Rep. Henry Aquino  
Rep. Karen Awana  
Rep. Faye Hanohano  
Rep. Gilbert Keith-Agaran  
Rep. Marilyn Lee  
Rep. Mark Nakashima  
Rep. Scott Saiki  
Rep. Joe Souki  
Rep. Roy Takumi  
Rep. Kymberly Pine

Aloha, my name is Susan Werner. I am a state employee and an HGEA member. I live on Maui in Haiku and work at the Wailuku Public Library.

I am writing today to voice my opposition to HB1725, HB1723, HB1726, and HB1727. All of these bills propose to take away benefits that we have already negotiated with our employers and are guaranteed with legally binding contracts. Each of these bills would unfairly take away health or life insurance benefits that our families count on.

Everyone knows that the cost of health care is increasing. By capping the employer's contribution, you will be cutting the salaries of all state and county employees, which is an item that should rightly be dealt with using the contract negotiation process. Without prescription drug coverage, these members and their families will be forced to choose between paying for their prescriptions or putting food on the table or a roof over their heads. Without vision and dental coverage, they won't be able to afford eye glasses or regular dental visits. They won't be able to stay healthy, and that will cost the State more in the long run. The workers and their families will become an added burden to the state's health care system.

Finding the money to keep the State afloat until the economy turns around is a very tough job. Cutting back on the benefits of Union members might seem like a quick fix. But in the end, that solution would only increase demand for state-sponsored assistance programs. I hope that you vote in opposition to these bills, and work together with all stakeholders to find other ways to get our economy moving forward again.

Thank you.

Susan Werner  
2923 E. Lelehuna Place



**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 6:34 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Laura and I am a teacher at Pearl City Highlands Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Laura McHugh

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 6:32 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is pandi and I am a teacher at Kua O Ka La PCS. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
pandi weston

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 6:15 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Cindy and I am a teacher at Pearl City High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Cindy Kawamura

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 6:11 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is John and I am a teacher at Molokai High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
John Van Ornum

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 6:03 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jane and I am a teacher at Kaleiopuu elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Jane Pedicone

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 6:02 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Celia and I am a teacher at Chiefess Kapiolani Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Celia Kawabata

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 5:40 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Elsie and I am a teacher at Kaunakakai Elementary School (RETIRED). I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Elsie Santiago

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 5:39 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kiley and I am a teacher at Maunaloa Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Kiley Adolpho

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 5:38 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donalyn and I am a teacher at Kilohana Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Donalyn Keliipuleole

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 5:06 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Victoria and I am a teacher at Lanikai Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Victoria Villegas

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 4:25 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Carmen and I am a teacher at Honowai Elem.. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Carmen Bruce

## **yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Lacey Matsuda [lacey\_matsuda@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 4:21 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony to The Twenty-Fifth Legislature House of Representatives Committee on Labor & Public Employment for the hearing on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 8:30am

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

Good morning. My name is Stacie Hiwatashi and I am an Office Assistant V at the Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs, Professional and Vocational Licensing Division. I've worked for the State for 8 years, and am truly disturbed by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say.

I speak in opposition to HB 1725, 1723, 1715, 1726 and 1727.

House bills 1723, 1726, 1727 and 1725 will increase the medical costs that I must pay. My husband and I have just started our family and work hard to make ends meet. While I realize that working in the public sector may not provide as much salary or as favorable working conditions as in the private sector, this is balanced by the health benefits that we receive in the State government.

If you pass these bills, I will struggle to meet the additional costs. I already live paycheck to paycheck and would be hard pressed to find the means to have to pay additional premiums for drug, dental, vision and life insurance benefits which I need for myself and my family. This comes at a time when I am not getting a pay increase and will probably have to pay more for health care, as we see premiums go up every year.

I am also speaking in opposition of HB 1715 which will reduce retirement benefits for new public employees. While it does not seem to affect me directly, it makes a difference in my job. Already, we are short staffed and the morale is low, as we are overloaded with work, and are already struggling while trying to keep up with the processing timeline. Not being able to recruit qualified people will only make it more difficult for existing employees, and will ultimately diminish our customer service affecting the public that relies on our office for their livelihood. It is short sighted to reduce health and retirement benefits at a time when the economy is so difficult. The work we do is important and the public must understand that these bills will mean decreased public services at a time when they are needed more than ever.

I respectfully request that you vote "no" on each of these bills and thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 4:21 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lawrence and I am a teacher at Chiefess Kapiolani. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Lawrence Denis III

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 4:19 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gerry and I am a teacher at Ho'okena ES. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Gerry Snyder

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 4:13 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sybil and I am a teacher at Pearl City Highlands Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Sybil Oishi

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 4:11 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Phyllis and I am a teacher at iliahi elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Phyllis Chee

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 4:10 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ruth and I am a teacher at Wheeler Intermediate. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Teraoka

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 4:09 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Victoria and I am a teacher at Puunene. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Victoria Leworthy

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 3:53 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Anne and I am a teacher at Waihee Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Anne Kloft

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 3:52 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nadine and I am a teacher at Kipapa. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Nadine Milan

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 3:47 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is David and I am a teacher at Kapaa High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
David Mireles

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 3:47 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Wynn timer Joy and I am a teacher at Farrington HS. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Wynn timer Joy Hee

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** leah p [leah808@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 3:43 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725: Hearing on State Retirement Benefits

February 17, 2009

To:

Honorable Chairperson, Karl Rhoads

Honorable Vice-Chairperson Kyle Yamashita

Committee on Labor and Public Employment

From:

Bob Mielke Adult Correction Officer IV

Halawa Correctional Facility

RE: HB 1725

I would like to testify against HB 1725. I feel this bill is not only anti-labor, it is also an insult to all of the correctional workers in Hawaii. Benefits were taken away from state employees during the reign of Ben Cayetano. Taking away benefits from state workers did not work then and will not work now. I strongly urge all of you not to take away anymore benefits that were promised to us. We are not the cause of this recession. Our budgets are nowhere close to that of the state. However to us our budgets are much greater.

Sincerely yours,

Bob Mielke

Address: 2847 Waialae Ave #301

Honolulu, HI 96826

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 3:34 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lianna and I am a teacher at Kaimuki Middle School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Lianna Lam

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 3:30 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Eddeille and I am a teacher at Kohala Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Eddeille Thomas

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 3:28 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christine and I am a teacher at Kapaa High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Christine Farina

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 3:00 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Angie and I am a teacher at Ka'u High and Pahala Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Angie Miyashiro

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 2:57 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Grace and I am a teacher at Kapolei Elem. School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Grace Lum

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 2:51 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Claire and I am a teacher at Retired from Kalani High Schjool. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Claire Furukawa

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 2:36 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Victoria and I am a teacher at Konawahen High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Victoria Woo

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 2:31 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Marissa and I am a teacher at Wilson Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Marissa Faleolo

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 2:26 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Joyce and I am a teacher at Nanaikapono Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Joyce Kaneshiro

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 2:14 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Patriciajo and I am a teacher at Kea'au High. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Patriciajo Peifer

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 2:00 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Roy and I am a teacher at Kapolei Middle School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Roy Hannu

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 1:58 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Caryn and I am a teacher at Kailua Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Caryn Rosen

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 1:35 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mark and I am a teacher at Waianae Intermediate. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Mark Jones

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 1:34 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Evelynn and I am a teacher at Kealakehe Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Evelynn Holman

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 1:29 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lynn and I am a teacher at Kapunahala. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Lynn Yoshida

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 1:26 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mary Kate and I am a teacher at Kalaheo High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Mary Kate Powers

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Trevina Wiest [wiesttrevina@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 1:24 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1725,HB1723,HB1715,HB726,HB1737

Aloha,

I am state employee and have been for the past 3 years with Department of Human Services as Eligibility worker.

My mother retired from state government work.

I vote and I live in Makiki.

I do not want drug,dental and vision coverage touched.

I have stressful job and I have seen many co workers get ill and sad part is I have coworkers who are on assistance and I know that if the price of drug,dental and vision coverage goes up,many more will need assistance.

Some will not take the coverage and pay more out of pocket.

We do not make much money and many are single parents.

Raising the retirement age will hurt some people who are caring for elderly parents and children.

I see economy is bad,but I do not feel that government employees is the place to look for making the budget balance.

We work for the government for various reasons.

Money is not one of them,private companies pay way more.

We are taxpayers.

Affecting our salary ,also affects the amount of taxes you get from us.

Sicerly,  
Trevina Wiest

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**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 1:23 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Karen and I am a teacher at Niu Valley Middle School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Karen Wrobel

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** Pat Grossman [pgrossma@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 1:06 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HBs 1715, 1723, 1725, 1726, 1727

Members of the Labor Committee,

Please consider the following before voting on the state employee bills on the agenda for Tuesday, February 17, 2009.

Enact legislation which prohibits each department from filling vacant positions, any interviews in progress should be halted, and employees now within the 90 day probationary period should be terminated. Further, reduce the total number of sick days and vacation leave accumulated by employees in any one calendar year.

Such measures would go a long way in curtailing personnel costs and mitigate the necessity of putting House Bills 1715, 23, 25, 26, 27, as well as those considered on Friday (HBs 1106 and 1718), into place.

Thank you.

Pat Grossman  
PO Box 704 Hilo, HI 96721

Employee: University of Hawaii at Hilo

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 12:45 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gwen and I am a teacher at Kihei elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Gwen Adams

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 12:45 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rebecca and I am a teacher at Waianae Intermediate. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Gebreyesus

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 12:41 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jennifer and I am a teacher at Farrington. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Grant

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 12:25 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gail and I am a teacher at Kalei'opu'u. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Gail Kono

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 12:23 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gail and I am a teacher at Kalei'opu'u Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Gail Kono

## yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** TakaGD808 [takagd808@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 12:22 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony; takagd808@aol.com  
**Subject:** (no subject)

RE: HB1725

I have been employed by the County of Hawaii for 32 years. When I began my career in the county it was with the belief that one of the main benefits of working for the county was free drug coverage after I retire. I feel it is unfair to remove this benefit after dedicating my life's work to the county. If I was told the drug coverage would be taken away I may not have chosen this career in the county. I am against the bill.

RE: HB1723

I am opposed to this bill for the same reason cited above.

RE: HB1715

Increasing the retirement age for new employees may be fair since they will know before they begin service what the retirement requirements are, however, how old do you want your work force to be? As the work force ages you can expect them to have more ailments and sickness which results in sick leave and possible backlog in workflow.

RE: HB1726

If we are applying this to new employees only than the new hire knows up front life insurance benefits have been curtailed. However, this should not apply to current employees who again hired on with the belief that life insurance was one of the benefits for county employment.

RE: HB1727

Same comment at HB1726. It should not apply to current employees..

Why do government employees have to be the whipping boy for government every time the economy goes bad? We are real live people just like you. Is it any more humane just because you are doing it to us and our families financially and maybe not physically? We are being punished because of government administration's failure to put money aside for a rainy day. I believe the law requiring excess tax monies be refunded to the people should be repealed and the excess should be placed into a rainy day fun. Administration knew or should have known that the financial market was in a bubble and should have been laying a contingency plan for the day the bubble broke. It is shameful to think that the legislature would even consider punishing us for its own failings.

Aloha,

Glenn Taka

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 12:13 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michael and I am a teacher at Kohala High. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Michael Cservenak

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 12:12 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jeni and I am a teacher at Mililani High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Jeni Nishimura

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 11:55 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is David and I am a teacher at Kailua High Schol. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
David Izumi

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** Karen Nakamura [khnakamura@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 11:36 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB 1725, 1723, 1715, 1726, 1727

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Karen Nakamura. I was a dedicated and a proud public servant for 37 years.

As a civil servant, I chose to work for less pay to be able to contribute to the community. I did so believing that I could count on a safe retirement. According to these bills, my fellow workers may not be able to do so. It disregards their years of service. This is irresponsible and **brings me shame. It makes me feel as though our years of service is being taken lightly.** Instead of supporting public service, the message I get is that public employees don't mean much and promises to us can be broken mid-stream.

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

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 11:30 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Doreen and I am a teacher at Roosevelt High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Doreen Dudoit

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 11:29 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is KATHY and I am a teacher at KONA WAENA ELEMENTARY. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
KATHY LAROSA

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 11:22 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009

Conference Room 309

08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Danita and I am a teacher at Kapaa Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Danita Aiu

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 11:17 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Garyce and I am a teacher at Kahala Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Garyce Kitaoka

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 11:15 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Susan and I am a teacher at Ka'elepulu. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Susan Cup Choy

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 11:15 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keith and I am a teacher at Kealakehe High. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Keith Colvin

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 11:15 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gertruda and I am a teacher at Chiefess Kapiolani Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Gertruda Taylor

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 10:47 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Aaron and I am a teacher at Waianae High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Aaron Day

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 10:39 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lynne and I am a teacher at Waipahu Intermediate. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Lynne Asato

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 10:28 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gail and I am a teacher at Retired. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Gail Haney

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 10:26 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Arthur and I am a teacher at McKinley High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Arthur Murchison

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 10:24 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Doreen and I am a teacher at Roosevelt High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Doreen Dudoit

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** T Cachola [pueo1017@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 10:05 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Written Testimony

To Whom This May Concern,

I am writing regarding the following Bills:  
HB 1725  
HB 1723  
HB 1727

As a state employee and as a resident of Hawaii, I do not agree with the above proposed bills. I am a single mother getting no help from the state or my child's father, I am the sole provider, and our medical, dental and vision care is very important to not only myself but for my children. I have worked very hard to not live off the system, but to provide for my children, and now I feel as though I am being punished for all my hard work, because you want to take away my benefits, and have me pay for it. As a resident of Hawaii I pay my taxes and what little I have left in my paychecks continues to go to the state whenever I shop anywhere. It just stresses me to think in order to provide coverage for myself and my children I have to give up more of my paycheck, as if I make enough to give up more, I don't know how we can possibly survive if my paychecks get even smaller. It is unfair to be looked upon solely as a "state worker" and not as a resident, I struggle like every resident on this island because I live here too, I pay the same taxes and the same bills as everyone else. My family and I shouldn't have to sacrifice so much because of who my employer is.

Mahalo Nui Loa,  
Tiana

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Windows Live™: E-mail. Chat. Share. Get more ways to connect. [Check it out.](#)

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 10:03 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Joy and I am a teacher at Chiefess Kapiolani Elem. School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Joy Hirayama

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 9:43 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Colleen and I am a teacher at Mililani High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Colleen Umetsu

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 9:29 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tom and I am a teacher at Windward District. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Tom Aitken

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 9:16 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Marcia and I am a teacher at McKinley HS. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Marcia Gross

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 9:15 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Aaron and I am a teacher at Manana Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Aaron Paragoso

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 8:51 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Naomi and I am a teacher at Solomon. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Naomi Pang

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 8:48 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michael and I am a teacher at . I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Michael Fahey

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 8:45 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine and I am a teacher at Maui Waena Int.. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Catherine Giamenelli

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 8:39 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lisa and I am a teacher at Hilo High. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Adams

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 8:37 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robin and I am a teacher at Lana'i High & Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Robin Fancy

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 8:30 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Patricia and I am a teacher at Kealakehe High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Champagne

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 8:29 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Verna and I am a teacher at Farrington Community School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Verna Chow

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 8:28 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sharon and I am a teacher at Kapaa Middle School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Sharon Cassidy

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 8:26 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Iris and I am a teacher at Aiea High - retired. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Iris Tamayose

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 8:18 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Laura and I am a teacher at Highlands Intermediate. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Laura Zoller

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 8:16 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Yvette and I am a teacher at Kapaa Elementary . I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Yvette DeSilva

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** soderberr001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 8:14 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** opposition to bills 1725, 1723, 1715, 1726, 1727

Honored lawmakers- As 61 year old teacher who may retire at age 66 with only my state retirement, my social security, and my health benefits, I oppose the intent of bills 1725 to take away my perscription coverage, bill 1723 to cap the employer contribution to 55%, bill 1715 to increase the retirement age, bill 1727 which would take away my life insurance, and bill 1727 which would take away my dental and vision coveage. For my wife, also a DOE employee and future retiree, this would be devastating. We have been loyal employees for the past two and a half decades and upon embarking on our DOE employment, we entered a compact with the state- we would exchange our expertise and energy in the classroom, and the state would take care of our salary, health and retirement requirements. We have faithfully upheld our end of the bargain. I have even received my National Board for Teaching Professionals certification and my wife has served as both a classroom teacher and now a principal. We expect the state to stand by us today and in the future and uphold its end of the bargain. We are looking to you as our representatives to do the right thing by us. Ralph and Nancy Soderberg, Kealakehe Intermediate and Konawaena Middle Schools, Kailua Kona, Hawaii. 808-329-0115

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 8:06 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sharon and I am a teacher at Ali'iolani Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Sharon Esteron

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Beverly Gotelli [bgotelli@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 7:57 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** Justin Wong; mmorita; bgotelli@msn.com  
**Subject:** Oppose HB 1725 - Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund  
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Beverly Gotelli, a retired teacher and I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

As a retiree on a limited income this legislation would put a hardship on myself and many others like me. Although I recently retired my fellow retirees who are much older than myself can not afford to cover the total cost of prescription drugs. Many of them are already feeling the financial hardships on their small incomes.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Beverly A. Gotelli

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 7:56 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Don and I am a teacher at Volcano School of Arts & Sciences. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Don Lawrence

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 7:53 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sylvia and I am a teacher at Waialua High & Intermediate. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Sylvia Plemer

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 7:47 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ethan and I am a teacher at Moanalua High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Ethan Paraso

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 7:46 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is stephen and I am a teacher at keaukaha. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
stephen santos

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 7:44 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Celeste and I am a teacher at Ahuimanu Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Celeste Katayama

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 7:41 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is curtiss and I am a teacher at dole middle sch. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
curtiss ako

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 7:41 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jacquelyn and I am a teacher at Waipahu Intermediate. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Jacquelyn Wanner

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 7:36 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kathleen and I am a teacher at mililani High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen McDonough

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 7:35 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jared and I am a teacher at Wheeler Middle School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Jared Wells

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 7:18 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sharon and I am a teacher at Moanalua Middle School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Sharon Inouye

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 7:02 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is rusty and I am a teacher at wailuku. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
rusty pundyke

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 6:09 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Linda and I am a teacher at Ewa Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Linda Florendo

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 5:27 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Margaret and I am a teacher at Enchanted Lake Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Margaret Haring

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 5:19 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Melvin and I am a teacher at Chiefess Kapiolani Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Melvin Nakao

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2009 5:14 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dian and I am a teacher at Waialae PCS. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Dian Hermes

Lois Lee  
44-114 Bayview Haven Place  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

To: Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

Re: H.B. No 1723 Relating to Public Employees  
H.B. No 1725 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits  
Trust Fund  
H.B. No 1727 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits  
Trust Fund

Hearing: February 17, 2009, 8:30 a.m., Room 309

Health care for Hawaii citizens should not be approached piecemeal. Reduction of health care benefits for state employees and retirees, the bankruptcy of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, the physicians' demand for increased Medicaid reimbursement and the proposed demise of Healthy Start all point to health care. Yet nowhere in the Legislature is there evidence that these issues are being addressed as a whole.

Hawaii has glided on its laurels as the Health State since 1974 when Hawaii Legislature passed the Hawaii Pre-paid Health Care Act that mandated all employers to provide full-time employees with health insurance. Hawaii is the only State in the Union with such a mandate, having subsequently received a congressional exemption from the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, ERISA, which prohibits States from mandating health and retirement benefits.

I remind you of your counterparts of the 1974 Legislature. This was not a bill embraced by all, certainly not by the business community. But, the Legislature of 1974 recognized that health care is a basic, an entitlement. Also, during the discussion of the 1974 legislation, interestingly, some labor officials were concerned about the bill's passage because the unions were already negotiating for health insurance and felt that the passage of the bill would undermine their organizing efforts. Concern for the common good convinced these same labor officials of the bill's worth.

I urge the 2009 Legislature to study – to systematically study health care and all its variables. Not just respond erratically to introduced bills but develop a

coherent policy and plan that embraces health care for Hawaii's citizens. Nationally, in this time of economic recession/depression, President Barack Obama and the Democratic Congress have stated that health care is a priority and with the passage of the Stimulus Bill, Congress and the President are now looking towards the development of a national health care plan. To critics who have raised cost as an issue, the President has remained firm in his belief that health care for all is worth the additional budget allocation.

On a pragmatic level, unless the 2009 Legislature undertakes to develop a health care policy for Hawaii, how will the State evaluate and judge the health care proposals that will be coming forth nationally? Will Hawaii actively participate in the creation of a national plan, as it should, or will it just react?

This brings me to HB 1723, HB1725 and HB 1727. Aside from my above stated belief that the concern of these bills should be evaluated as part of Hawaii's health care as a whole, all three propose to reduce benefits already received by State employees and retirees. It may be argued that State employees and retirees receive more health benefits than those in the private sector and as such the bill is fair. I argue that existing private sector practice should not be viewed as the measure of fairness, and the legislators of 1974 did not either.

Lastly, current employees and retirees entered into an agreement with the State at the time of employment. Retirement benefits were taken into consideration as a plus to off-set the salary that was lower than that offered by the private sector. To take away these benefits is to renege on the agreement.

Accordingly, I oppose passage of HB 1723, HB 1725 and HB 1727.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 1:34 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Starr and I am a teacher at Waikoloa Elementary & Middle School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Starr Asselin

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 1:36 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Beatrice and I am a teacher at Kahuku High & Intermediate. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Beatrice DeRego

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Megan Tanabe. As a public employee for 4 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced this legislative session by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1725, HB 1723, HB 1715, HB 1726 and HB 1727.

I oppose HB 1725, HB 1723, HB 1715, HB 1726, and HB 1727 because I strongly believe it will deter possible new employees from serving the state of Hawaii, when there are many vacant positions that need to be filled. It will also place a burden on employees to make difficult health decision. Finally, it will also make it difficult for personnel to retain excellent employees.

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 will hurt those employees who are in lesser paying state jobs and who may have health conditions. Although the bill is only temporary, this will be a huge burden on all employees.

As a young and healthy employee, you may wonder why I would care. At any time we are vulnerable to airborne illnesses or chronic disease and by not providing drug coverage, many will not be able to afford proper medication and possibly prolong what could have been a short-term illness. This makes for a less productive workforce.

During this difficult economic climate, it is not a time to reduce drug, vision, or dental coverage, nor is it time to reduce life insurance benefits (HB 1726), increase the retirement age (HB 1715), or limit employer contribution (HB 1723). In my current state position, I am overworked due to the vacant positions in my section. This means caseloads are higher, my colleagues and I are working longer, more rigorous hours, and in turn benefitting less and are at risk for short- and long-term health problems. Please hear our voices and don't support these measures.

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

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 1:53 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Beverly and I am a teacher at Roosevelt. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Beverly Hashimoto

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 1:53 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009

Conference Room 309

08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sandra and I am a teacher at Mililani Mauka . I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Sandra Kubota

Testimony in opposition of HB 1725  
Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:

My name is Angie Hashimoto. I work as an Educational Assistant with Special Education students. I strongly urge you to oppose HB 1725.

On a personal level, my health is of utmost importance for me to survive. I need my health to go to work to earn my wages. On the state level, we are the Healthy State. Hawaii's important resource is the health of its people. What can society do without our health? We will eventually become a burden to the state.

*"The pain should be broadly shared by all rather than concentrated on only an unfortunate few," says Calvin Say. Keep in mind, that public workers do not constitute "ALL." We are but a group within the state's population, and already provide service to others, and make sacrifices because of our lower wages. Ironically, the most frequently prescribed drug is oral analgesics or pain medication for varied measures of suffering. Losing my drug coverage, would make me contemplate if I can do without. As adults, we may be able to survive through the agony or misery of pain. But asking our children to anguish over the same choice is insulting and injurious. Are we asking our special education population that is medicated to do without? There are some students who are extremely dangerous to themselves, to others and the public workers who support them when either their medication is forgotten or not afforded. This becomes a risky situation for these severe cases in the school setting.*

HB 1725 would put the entire burden of prescription medicine on public workers who are already underpaid, and working two or three jobs to suffice. For me, this would mean choosing between survival needs like food and shelter or paying my prescription drug cost. Will it come to deciding that prescription drugs are just a comfort item versus a survival detail? Is this what the legislature means by sharing the pain? I have to ask, would the legislature make us choose and suffer so they may pass this bill? Prescription Drug coverage is something I rely on.

As representatives, you highly rely on your office staff. What measures would you go to if they were suddenly cut from your budget or office? Keep in mind also, that working in the school environment each day, we are at a higher exposure to the many illnesses like the common cold, and flu. With the rising cost of everything but our wages, our lives have become a challenge from day to day. Being able to keep the quality of life is the goal of all public workers. We implore that you vote "NO" on HB 1725.

President Obama promised opportunity and prosperity, supporting and protecting our families, and strengthening our communities. *"We're in this together,"* means working together, and communicating with our union leaders to resolve the change. Please think of the suffering that HB 1725 will create for public workers and their families. Vote "NO" on HB 1725!

Sincerely,



Angie K. Hashimoto  
Educational Assistant III, King Intermediate School  
- member of Hawaii Government Employees Association, Unit 03

Fax Form

TO: OPPOSE HB 1725, 1723,  
1715, 1726, 1727 fax number: 586-6331

FR: ANGIE HASHIMOTO fax number: 247-1852 (manual fax #)

RE: REQUESTING YOUR HELP, Please

Date: Feb. 11, 2009

Hawaii State Capital  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

February 11, 2009

Dear Sir or Madam:

Aloha! We are Public Workers who are employed at King Intermediate School in Kaneohe. We take pride in our jobs and have made serving the community our career. We also pay taxes and contribute to the economy buying food, clothing, and other needs.

We don't believe that it is fair for the House to be looking at ways to balance the budget on the backs of public employees. Many of us have been employed in the DOE for numerous years and know that private sector employees have higher wages. Our health benefits and retirement was something we could rely on for ourselves and our families.

We think it is wrong for representatives to take these benefits away from us. We hope you will vote "NO" on the following bills, that will hurt us as public employees and our families.  
<HB 1106, HB 1715, HB 1719, HB 1723, HB 1725, HB 1726, and HB 1727>

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.

Thank you,

*Please see the signed attached list of employees at King Intermediate School who oppose the specified bills.*

P-02  
898 247 1852  
MAY 15 3 25 PM '00

Vote "NO" on the following bills:  
HB1106, HB1715, HB1719, HB1723, HB 1725,

King Intermediate School  
HGEA / AFSCME Local 152 AFL - CIO

HB 1726, HB1727	Print Name	Signature	email address or phone contact	Position	UNIT
1	Janice Yoshizu	<i>Janice Yoshizu</i>	jan-yoshizu@gmail.com	clerk	03
2	ANGIE K. HASHIMOTO	<i>Angie K. Hashimoto</i>	ahash94@gmail.com	EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT III	03
3	Fay Lee	<i>Fay Lee</i>	cojoo@hawaii.rr.com	Health aide	03
4	CAROL RITA	<i>Carol Rita</i>	carolrita@hawaii.rr.com	Library Clerk	03
5	Anna M Norris	<i>Anna M Norris</i>	annanorris@gmail.com	EA III	03
6	MIRIAM KOKI	<i>Miriam K. Koki</i>	808-798-6781	E.A.	03
7	ANTOINETTE FARMER	<i>Antoinette Farmer</i>	tonifarmer58@aol.com	clerk, SSC	03
8	Stanley Dickson	<i>Stanley Dickson</i>		Security	03
9	Diana Jones	<i>Diana Jones</i>	247-1468	Security	03
10	Julie A. Lockyer	<i>Julie A. Lockyer</i>	499-4716	Educational Asst.	03
11	Charmaine Hopkinson	<i>Charmaine Hopkinson</i>	charm-2the3rdpower@yahoo.com	EA III	03
12	Amy Tamashiro	<i>Amy Tamashiro</i>	239-6491	Clerk Typist	03
13	Joni Kaneshiro	<i>Joni Kaneshiro</i>	jkaneshiro001@hawaii.rr.com	SASA	04
14	Jeff Camara	<i>Jeff Camara</i>	235-7514	PFSM III	02
15	James S. Galayan	<i>James S. Galayan</i>	236-3729	EA III	03
16	Teresa Mae	<i>Teresa Mae</i>	235-2974	EA III	03
17	Amorian L. Luman	<i>Amorian L. Luman</i>	230-5394	Account clerk	03
18	Sharon Tom	<i>Sharon Tom</i>	sharonitom@yahoo.com	EA III	03
19	Teresa Salmon	<i>Teresa Salmon</i>	255-3577	EA III	03
20	Concannon Adams	<i>Concannon Adams</i>	954-0082	Principal	06
21	Robert H. Lockyer	<i>Robert H. Lockyer</i>	233-5747	Vice principal	06
22	Danette Collins	<i>Danette Collins</i>	233-5747 ext 294	EA III	03
23	Aileen Yamashiro	<i>Aileen Yamashiro</i>	233-5727 ext.	EA III	03
24	Marilyn Deguchi	<i>Marilyn Deguchi</i>	206-4024	EA	03
25					

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2009 10:00 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Imai and I am a teacher at Kaimiloa Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Imai Laura