



LATE TESTIMONY

February 22, 2010

To: Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance

Fr: Keith Vieira
Senior Vice President of Operations,
Starwood Hotels & Resorts, Hawaii & French Polynesia

RE: **HB2257 HD1 – Relating to Unemployment Insurance Benefits - Concerns**
FIN Committee – February 22, 2010, Conference Room 308, 1PM

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Member of the Committee:

My name is Keith Vieira, Senior Vice President of Operations for Starwood Hotels & Resorts-Hawaii & French Polynesia.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on HB2257 HD1, Relating to Unemployment Insurance Benefits, which authorizes an individual that is attached to a regular employer who is not offering work to still receive unemployment insurance benefits even if that individual voluntarily or involuntarily separates from part-time employment, with or without good cause.

We support the rights of workers and do our best to foster a nurturing environment for our staff, but have concerns that this bill may inadvertently set a bad precedent. For example, if a worker is discharged for good reason, they should not be eligible for unemployment benefits, which is consistent with the current law.

This would greatly impact to the unemployment fund, which without any intervention would become insolvent by September 2010.

Finally, this bill may also cause an adverse affect by creating a disincentive for employers NOT to hire new employees. This bill in conflict with another bill this committee recently advanced – HB2558, which would provide a job creation income tax credit for each new full time employee hired during calendar years 2010 – 2012. HB2257 HD1 would achieve the opposite effect of what the state is trying to do – creating jobs.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you do not pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on this matter.

