



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. 1536 RELATING TO SALARIES

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

The Administration supports with amendments H.B. 1536, a bill similar to the Administration's H.B. 1109, which defers salary increases for State leaders for two years. We believe this measure is necessary to ensure responsible management of the State budget, as well as assure taxpayers and government workers that State leaders are leading by example.

As a result of the economic crisis taking place throughout the country and the world, Hawaii residents are experiencing layoffs, furloughs, and other cutbacks. Currently, salary increases for certain members of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches are scheduled to occur, as required by law, despite budget shortfalls confronting the State and economic hardships facing residents and taxpayers.

In November 2006, a constitutional amendment approved by the voters of Hawaii established the Commission on Salaries, which is tasked to provide salary recommendations for executives in all three branches of government on a six-year basis. The first recommendations for the period between 2007 and 2013 were submitted by the Commission in March 2007 and automatically took effect when they were not disapproved by the Legislature. Attached are the recommended salary increases for executive positions across all three branches of government for the six year period between 2007 and 2013.

Compared to current salary levels, the upcoming recommended salary increases, which are scheduled to take effect July 1, 2009 and July 1, 2010 for the Executive and Judicial branches and January 1, 2010 and January 1, 2011 for the Legislative branch, are estimated to cost the State \$1.6 million and \$2.5 million for fiscal years 2009-2010

and 2010-2011, respectively. At a time when residents are experiencing financial hardships, we must consider the fairness of salary increases for government leaders. As such, the Administration supports the deferral of pay increases until the State is on better financial footing.

For technical reasons, the Administration respectfully requests that salaries for the Executive and Judicial branches remain the same from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011, not from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011 as drafted in section 2. Given that salary schedules for the Executive and Judicial branches are based on fiscal years, unlike the salary schedule for the Legislative branch that is based on calendar years, a deferral that does not coincide with the salary schedules will complicate logistical and administrative issues. The recommended amendment is attached.

RECOMMENDED ADMENDMENT

SECTION 2. (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the annual salaries for the governor, the lieutenant governor, the justices and judges of all state courts, the administrative director of the State or an equivalent position, and the department heads or executive officers and the deputies or assistants to the department heads or executive officers of the departments of:

- (1) Accounting and general services;
- (2) Agriculture;
- (3) The attorney general;
- (4) Budget and finance;
- (5) Business, economic development, and tourism;
- (6) Commerce and consumer affairs;
- (7) Defense;
- (8) Hawaiian home lands;
- (9) Health;
- (10) Human resources development;
- (11) Human services;
- (12) Labor and industrial relations;
- (13) Land and natural resources;
- (14) Public safety;
- (15) Taxation; and
- (16) Transportation,

shall until [~~December 31, 2011~~] June 30, 2011, remain the same as they were on [~~January 1, 2009~~] July 1, 2008.

Table 1 - Executive Salaries and Costs

Position		No. of Empl.	7/1/2006		7/1/2007		7/1/2008		7/1/2009		7/1/2010		7/1/2011		7/1/2012		Total Salaries 7/1/2007 to 6/30/2013
			Current		5.0%		5.0%		5.0%		3.5%		3.5%		3.5%		
			Annual Salary	Total Salaries	Annual Salary	Total Salaries	Annual Salary	Total Salaries	Annual Salary	Total Salaries	Annual Salary	Total Salaries	Annual Salary	Total Salaries	Annual Salary	Total Salaries	
Governor ¹	Current	1	112,000	104,825	114,240	114,240	116,525	116,525	118,855	118,855	121,232	121,232	123,657	123,657	126,130	126,130	720,640
	Recommend	1	112,000	104,825	117,600	117,600	123,480	123,480	129,660	129,660	134,196	134,196	138,888	138,888	143,748	143,748	787,572
Lieutenant Governor ^{2,3}	Current	1	100,000	95,850	102,000	102,000	104,040	104,040	106,121	106,121	108,243	108,243	110,408	110,408	112,616	112,616	643,428
	Recommend	1	100,000	95,850	105,000	105,000	120,444	120,444	126,468	126,468	130,896	130,896	135,480	135,480	140,220	140,220	758,508
Tier 1 Admin. Dir. of the State ^{2,3}	Current	1	100,000	95,850	102,000	102,000	104,040	104,040	106,121	106,121	108,243	108,243	110,408	110,408	112,616	112,616	643,428
	Recommend	1	100,000	95,850	105,000	105,000	120,444	120,444	126,468	126,468	130,896	130,896	135,480	135,480	140,220	140,220	758,508
Tier 1 Dept. Head	Current	1	109,242	109,242	111,427	111,427	113,655	113,655	115,928	115,928	118,247	118,247	120,612	120,612	120,612	120,612	700,482
Attorney General	Recommend	1	109,242	109,242	114,708	114,708	120,444	120,444	126,468	126,468	130,896	130,896	135,480	135,480	140,220	140,220	768,216
Tier 2 Dept. Heads DOH, DOT, DAGS, DCCA, TAX, B&F	Current	6	104,040	624,240	106,121	636,725	108,243	649,459	110,408	662,448	112,616	675,697	114,869	689,211	114,869	689,211	4,002,753
	Recommend	6	104,040	624,240	109,248	655,488	114,708	688,248	120,444	722,664	124,656	747,936	129,024	774,144	133,536	801,216	4,389,696
Tier 3 Dept. Heads ⁴ DHS, DLIR, DLNR, DBEDT	Current	4	98,838	395,352	100,815	403,259	102,831	411,324	104,888	419,551	106,985	427,942	109,125	436,501	109,125	436,501	2,535,077
	Recommend	4	98,838	395,352	103,776	415,104	108,960	435,840	120,444	481,776	124,656	498,624	129,024	516,096	133,536	534,144	2,881,584
Tier 4 Dept. Heads ^{3,4} DOA, DHHL, PSD, DHRD	Current	4	93,636	374,544	95,509	382,035	97,419	389,676	99,367	397,469	101,355	405,418	103,382	413,527	103,382	413,527	2,401,652
	Recommend	4	93,636	374,544	98,316	393,264	108,960	435,840	120,444	481,776	124,656	498,624	129,024	516,096	133,536	534,144	2,859,744
Tier 1 Deputy Dept. Head Attorney General	Current	1	100,503	100,503	102,513	102,513	104,563	104,563	106,654	106,654	108,787	108,787	110,963	110,963	110,963	110,963	644,443
	Recommend	1	95,041	95,041	99,792	99,792	104,784	104,784	110,028	110,028	113,880	113,880	117,864	117,864	121,992	121,992	706,740
Tier 2 Deputy Dept. Heads DOH, DOT, DAGS, DCCA, TAX, B&F	Current	12	95,717	1,148,602	97,631	1,171,574	99,584	1,195,005	101,575	1,218,905	103,607	1,243,283	105,679	1,268,149	105,679	1,268,149	7,365,065
	Recommend	12	90,515	90,515	95,040	95,040	99,792	99,792	104,784	104,784	108,456	108,456	112,248	112,248	116,172	116,172	8,076,672
Tier 3 Deputy Dept. Heads ⁴ DHS, DLIR, DLNR, DBEDT	Current	5	90,931	454,655	92,750	463,748	94,605	473,023	96,497	482,483	98,427	492,133	100,395	501,976	100,395	501,976	2,915,338
	Recommend	5	85,989	85,989	90,288	90,288	94,800	94,800	104,784	104,784	108,456	108,456	112,248	112,248	116,172	116,172	3,313,740
Tier 4 Deputy Dept. Heads ^{3,4} DOA, DHHL, PSD, DHRD	Current	6	86,145	516,871	87,868	527,208	89,625	537,752	91,418	548,507	93,246	559,478	95,111	570,667	95,111	570,667	3,314,279
	Recommend	6	81,463	81,463	85,536	85,536	94,800	94,800	104,784	104,784	108,456	108,456	112,248	112,248	116,172	116,172	3,946,392
Total Current Salaries		42		4,020,534		4,116,728		4,199,063		4,283,044		4,368,705		4,456,079		4,462,968	25,886,586
Total Recommended Salaries		42		4,020,534		4,237,788		4,524,612		4,860,216		5,030,220		5,206,212		5,388,324	29,247,372
Difference between Recommended Salaries and Current Approved Salaries						121,060		325,550		577,172		661,515		750,133		925,356	3,360,786
Percent Increase						2.9%		7.8%		13.5%		15.1%		16.8%		20.7%	13.0%
Year-to-year increase in Recommended Salaries						217,254		286,824		335,604		170,004		175,992		182,112	
Percent Increase						5.4%		6.8%		7.4%		3.5%		3.5%		3.5%	

Deputy Department Head salaries costed at recommended range maximum.

³Effective 7/1/2008

Lt. Governor, Admin. Director of the State: 14.7% increase
Tier 4 Dept. Heads, Tier 4 Deputy Dept. Heads: 10.8% increase

¹Governor: Current annual salary of \$112,000 effective 12/4/2006.

7/1/2006 total salaries = \$94,780/annum @ 5 mos + \$112,000/annum @ 7 mos = \$104,825.00

²Lt. Governor, Admin. Director of the State: Current annual salary of \$100,000 effective 12/4/2006.

7/1/2006 total salaries = \$90,041/annum @ 5 mos + \$100,000/annum @ 7 mos = \$95,850.42

⁴Effective 7/1/2009

Tier 3 and 4 Dept. Heads, Tier 3 and 4 Deputy Dept. Heads: 10.5% increase

Effective 7/1/2012

Current salaries for Dept. Heads and Deputy Dept. Heads approved to 6/30/2012. 7/1/2012 current costs for these positions computed at 7/1/2011 rates.

Table 2 - Judicial Salaries and Costs

Position		No. of Empl.	7/1/2006		7/1/2007		7/1/2008		7/1/2009		7/1/2010		7/1/2011		7/1/2012		Total Salaries 7/1/2007 to 6/30/2013
			Current	Total	10.0%	Total	3.5%	Total	10.0%	Total	3.5%	Total	10.0%	Total	3.5%	Total	
Chief Justice, Supreme	Current	1	144,900	144,900	149,972	149,972	155,221	155,221	160,654	160,654	166,277	166,277	172,097	172,097	172,097	172,097	976,318
	Recommend	1	144,900	144,900	159,396	159,396	164,976	164,976	181,476	181,476	187,824	187,824	206,604	206,604	213,840	213,840	1,114,116
Associate Justice, Supreme	Current	4	139,725	558,900	144,615	578,460	149,677	598,708	154,916	619,664	160,338	641,352	165,950	663,800	165,950	663,800	3,765,784
	Recommend	4	139,725	558,900	153,696	614,784	159,072	636,288	174,984	699,936	181,104	724,416	199,212	796,848	206,184	824,736	4,297,008
Chief Judge, Intermediate	Current	1	134,550	134,550	139,259	139,259	144,133	144,133	149,178	149,178	154,399	154,399	159,803	159,803	159,803	159,803	906,575
	Recommend	1	134,550	134,550	148,008	148,008	153,192	153,192	168,516	168,516	174,420	174,420	191,868	191,868	198,588	198,588	1,034,592
Associate Judge, Intermediate	Current	5	129,375	646,875	133,903	669,515	138,590	692,950	143,441	717,205	148,461	742,305	153,657	768,285	153,657	768,285	4,358,545
	Recommend	5	129,375	646,875	142,308	711,540	147,288	736,440	162,012	810,060	167,688	838,440	184,452	922,260	190,908	954,540	4,973,280
Circuit Court Judge	Current	33	125,856	4,153,248	130,261	4,298,613	134,820	4,449,060	139,539	4,604,787	144,423	4,765,959	149,478	4,932,774	149,478	4,932,774	27,983,967
	Recommend	33	125,856	4,153,248	138,444	4,568,652	143,292	4,728,636	157,620	5,201,460	163,140	5,383,620	179,460	5,922,180	185,736	6,129,288	31,933,836
District/Family/Per Diem Court Judge	Current	46	118,611	5,456,106	122,762	5,647,052	127,059	5,844,714	131,506	6,049,276	136,109	6,261,014	140,873	6,480,158	140,873	6,480,158	36,762,372
	Recommend	46	118,611	5,456,106	130,476	6,001,896	135,048	6,212,208	148,548	6,833,208	153,744	7,072,224	169,116	7,779,336	175,032	8,051,472	41,950,344
Total Current Salaries		90		11,094,579		11,482,871		11,884,786		12,300,764		12,731,306		13,176,917		13,176,917	74,753,561
Total Recommended Salaries		90		11,094,579		12,204,276		12,631,740		13,894,656		14,380,944		15,819,096		16,372,464	85,303,176
Difference between Recommended Salaries and Current Approved Salaries						721,405		746,954		1,593,892		1,649,638		2,642,179		3,195,547	10,549,615
Percent Increase						6.3%		6.3%		13.0%		13.0%		20.1%		24.3%	14.1%
Year-to-year increase in Recommended Salaries						1,109,697		427,464		1,262,916		486,288		1,438,152		553,368	
Percent Increase						10.0%		3.5%		10.0%		3.5%		10.0%		3.5%	

Effective 7/1/2012

Current salaries approved to 6/30/2012. 7/1/2012 current costs computed at 7/1/2011 rates.

Table 3 - Legislative Salaries and Costs

Position		No. of Empl.	Current 1/1/2007		1/1/2009		1/1/2010		1/1/2011		1/1/2012		1/1/2013		1/1/2014		Total Salaries 1/1/2009 to 12/31/2014
			Annual Salary	Total Salaries	Annual Salary	Total Salaries	Annual Salary	Total Salaries	Annual Salary	Total Salaries	Annual Salary	Total Salaries	Annual Salary	Total Salaries	Annual Salary	Total Salaries	
House Speaker/Senate President	Current	2	43,400	86,800	45,000	90,000	45,000	90,000	46,700	93,400	46,700	93,400	46,700	93,400	46,700	93,400	553,600
	Recommend	2	43,400	86,800	56,208	112,416	57,912	115,824	59,676	119,352	61,500	123,000	63,396	126,792	65,352	130,704	728,088
Representative/Senator	Current	74	35,900	2,656,600	37,500	2,775,000	37,500	2,775,000	39,200	2,900,800	39,200	2,900,800	39,200	2,900,800	39,200	2,900,800	17,153,200
	Recommend	74	35,900	2,656,600	48,708	3,604,392	50,412	3,730,488	52,176	3,861,024	54,000	3,996,000	55,896	4,136,304	57,852	4,281,048	23,609,256
Total Current Salaries		76		2,743,400		2,865,000		2,865,000		2,994,200		2,994,200		2,994,200		2,994,200	17,706,800
Total Recommended Salaries		76		2,743,400		3,716,808		3,846,312		3,980,376		4,119,000		4,263,096		4,411,752	24,337,344
Difference between Recommended Salaries and Current Approved Salaries						851,808		981,312		986,176		1,124,800		1,268,896		1,417,552	6,630,544
Percent Increase						29.7%		34.3%		32.9%		37.6%		42.4%		47.3%	37.4%
Year-to-year increase in Recommended Salaries						973,408		129,504		134,064		138,624		144,096		148,656	
Percent Increase						35.5%		3.5%		3.5%		3.5%		3.5%		3.5%	

Note: Legislative Salaries costed by calendar year due to the increases becoming effective January 1 of each year beginning in 2009.

Effective 7/1/2012

Current salaries approved to 12/31/2012. 1/1/2013 and 1/1/2014 current costs computed at 12/31/2012 rates.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



MARIE C. LADERTA
DIRECTOR

CINDY S. INOUE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

February 12, 2009

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

BY

MARIE C. LADERTA, DIRECTOR

**House Bill No. 1536
Relating to Salaries**

TO CHAIRPERSON KARL RHOADS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The purpose of House Bill No. 1536 is to freeze the salaries of certain members of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of state government in recognition of the current fiscal situation and to lead by example in showing the people of Hawaii that public officials are doing their share to conserve public resources.

The Department of Human Resources Development **strongly supports** this bill.

As a result of the economic crisis permeating throughout the country and the world, Hawaii residents are experiencing layoffs, furloughs and other cutbacks. Currently, salary increases for certain members of the executive, legislative and judicial branches are scheduled to occur, as required by law, despite budget shortfalls confronting the State and economic hardships facing residents and taxpayers. These salary increases for the fiscal biennium 2009-2011 are estimated to cost over \$4,000,000.

We respectfully request passage of this important measure; however, we recommend that the judicial and executive branch salary increases be deferred until June 30, 2011, instead of December 31, 2011 (p. 2, line 20) to conform to the salary

House Bill No. 1536
February 13, 2009
Page 2

schedule.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 1536.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marie C. Laderta". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

MARIE C. LADERTA,
Director

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 No. 1719, Related to Public Employees.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Audra Sellers

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

February 11, 2009

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

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

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

IN SUPPORT OF HB 1536

My name is Cheryl Matthews and I have committed myself to public service. I am very pleased to see that the legislators are seeking to balance the states budget by making a sacrifice to limit the salaries of those who make so much more than the average public servant. Although these individuals do conduct state business and hold much responsibility, it is necessary to place limits on the executive, legislative and judicial branch position salaries at a time when all of the residents of Hawaii are being called to make sacrifices.

As a public servant, I make the daily sacrifice to further the government's mission, *Ua Mau Kea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono, The Life Of The Land Is Perpetuated In Righteousness*. However, it is refreshing to know that our decision-makers are willing to do their part to ensure a balanced budget. I am very concerned that this limitation is only being considered for two years, while the legislators are, at the same time, considering amendments to reduce benefits for six years for the average public servant. This imbalanced approach sends the community a clear message that our top officials are only willing to make short-term sacrifices while imposing long-term sacrifice expectations on the general population, specifically, the back-bone of the state, the public servant.

The passage of this proposal is appropriate at this time and I urge you to vote YES on HB 1536 with the revised expiration to be consistent with the terms that are considered for the average public servant, six years. This will then truly be a sacrifice for all serving in the executive, legislative and judicial branches and may provide the needed urgency to make the necessary changes in the way business is done in Hawaii, not placing the burden on the backs of the average public servant.

Mahalo nui loa,

Cheryl Matthews

yamashita1- Kathy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 11:20 PM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: jagnes@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1536 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1536

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: JOANNE AGNES
Organization: Individual
Address: 5400 LIKINI ST #402 HONOLULU, HI 96818
Phone: 808-387-5093
E-mail: jagnes@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/10/2009

Comments:

The proposed bill should be expanded to include executives, officials or department heads in other agencies/jurisdictions. Also to include languages that state "no retroactive increases" or "thereafter, December 31, 2011, increases shall be at least equal to its employees negotiated salary increase at that time."

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

From:

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

Please accept testimony on the following Bills:

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

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

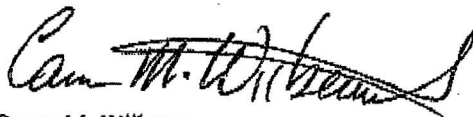
HB 1536: In favor of this Bill. Our higher paid officials that we have elected need to set this example. If the state workers are willing not to have a pay increase in these hard times then our much higher paid elected officials most certainly need to do the same thing. It's just the right & moral thing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

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

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

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

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



Caron M. Wilberts
State of Hawaii Clerk Typist

yamashita3-Chelsea

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

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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

Dear Governor Lingle,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Holly deMello

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:10 AM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: jco88@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1536 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1536

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jen Ching
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jco88@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

Comments:
It should also include employees making over \$100,000 per year.