

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1725

February 13, 2009

RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST  
FUND

House Bill No. 1725 makes temporary changes to the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund by prohibiting Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund's health benefits plan from providing prescription drug benefits for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2015; and allowing the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund's Board of Trustees to make prescription drug plans available to public employees at no cost to employers during that period. Conforming amendments are also made to the Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association statute.

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

It is estimated that this bill will generate savings of \$81,000,000 in FY 2010 and \$91,000,000 in FY 2011.



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. 1725**  
**Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund**

TO CHAIRPERSON KARL RHOADS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The purpose of H. B. No. 1725 is to prohibit the health benefits plan of the trust fund from providing prescription drug benefits for the period beginning July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2015; and allow the board of trustees of the trust fund to make prescription drug plans available to public employees at no cost to the employers during that period.

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy S. Inoue*  
FOR MARIE C. LADERTA  
Director

TESTIMONY BY JIM WILLIAMS  
ADMINISTRATOR, HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST  
FUND, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT  
ON  
HOUSE BILL 1725

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

RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST  
FUND

Chairperson Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jim Williams, and I am Administrator of the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (also known as the EUTF). Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony reporting that the Board of Trustees voted to take no position on House Bill 1725.

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

This bill prohibits the EUTF from prescription drug coverage from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2015, except that it permits the EUTF to offer prescription drug plans during that period that are paid for entirely by employee-beneficiaries.

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

cost affordable to both the public employers and the public employees.” The Board also is cognizant of the upcoming Council on Revenues revised projections due in early March. The Board reserves its right to take a position on this bill at a later date.

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



Testimony of

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

Before a Hearing of  
**Committee on Labor and Public Employment**

February 13, 2009

**House Bill 1725: Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union  
 Health Benefits Trust Fund**

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

House Bill 1725 would eliminate prescription drug coverage for a six-year period, but enable the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund board to make plans available if paid for by its members.

The Hawaii Council of Mayors withholds any comment on the merits or cost implications of this proposal. However, we would reiterate our support for a proposal, included in our 2009 legislative package, that would give the county governments representation on the EUTF board of trustees. Our representation would give us a better opportunity to gain an overall understanding of the EUTF benefits that would then enable us to better evaluate the short- and long-term costs and impact of proposals such as House Bill 1725 on our budgets and employees.

Mahalo.



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



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



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



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

CHARMAINE TAVARES  
Mayor



LYNN G. KRIEG  
Director

LANCE T. HIROMOTO  
Deputy Director

COUNTY OF MAUI  
DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL SERVICES

200 SOUTH HIGH STREET • WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793-2155  
PHONE (808) 270-7850 • FAX (808) 270-7969

Website: [www.mauicounty.gov/departments/Personnel](http://www.mauicounty.gov/departments/Personnel) • Email: [personnel.services@mauicounty.gov](mailto:personnel.services@mauicounty.gov)

February 11, 2009

(Electronic Transmission)

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
State House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Conference Room 309  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Rhoads and Committee Members:

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

I am Lynn G. Krieg, Director of Personnel Services, County of Maui, writing in opposition of H.B. 1725.

Simply put, giving our employees a health plan with no prescription drug coverage is like putting your family in a car with no brakes. Yes, you have the vehicle to take you where you want to go, but once you get there you cannot stop.

A health plan will get you in the door to see a physician for a diagnosis, but what do you do with the prescription when you leave if you have no coverage and inadequate funds? This is especially true for our young families, our retirees on fixed income and those with chronic conditions. If this occurs, what we may see is an increase in sick leave or prolonged illnesses among our workforce and increased absenteeism as workers stay home longer to care for themselves and their family members.

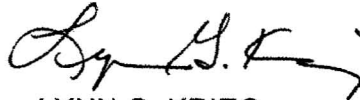
This proposal will also have adverse effects on those with fixed incomes or those at the lower salary ranges who have chronic conditions that require regular maintenance medication. Any efforts toward prevention will fall by the wayside out of economic necessity as it becomes financially more difficult to keep up with the cost of monthly prescriptions.

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Page 2  
February 11, 2009

While the proposal allows for prescription drug benefits to be made available via plans to be paid for entirely by our employees, we believe this would only be a viable option if there is a comparable reduction in the overall employee share of the health plan premium cost. As it is, we already have employees who qualify for public housing on the wages we pay.

For the foregoing reasons, we are not in favor of this proposal.

Sincerely,



LYNN G. KRIEG  
Director of Personnel Services

cc: Mayor Charmaine Tavares  
Justin Gruenstein



**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
COUNTY OF MAUI



CHARMAINE TAVARES  
MAYOR

OUR REFERENCE  
YOUR REFERENCE

55 MAHALANI STREET  
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793  
(808) 244-6400  
FAX (808) 244-6411

THOMAS M. PHILLIPS  
CHIEF OF POLICE

GARY A. YABUTA  
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

February 10, 2009

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

**SUBJECT: House Bill No. 1725, Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund**

The purpose of this bill is the exclusion of prescription drug coverage for public employees from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2015: (1) prohibits health benefits plans of the employer-union benefits trust fund from providing prescription drug coverage; and (2) allows a board of trustees to make prescription drug benefits available through drug coverage plans that are paid for entirely by employee-beneficiaries.

This legislation attacks the very people who will assist the State in getting out of this economic crisis. Every piece of legislation that takes away benefits from public employees will trickle down to our State's economy. These are the people, who shop at all the local stores, buy property, fuel, use our airlines, etc. You take away their promised benefits; you take away State revenue, that's the bottom line.

This legislation also makes a very dangerous statement that the State of Hawaii will not follow through on promises, employment agreements, or with collective bargaining agreements. How can the State or counties hire an employee and inform them that your retirement benefits are not guaranteed, that the State may take it away after 10, 15, 20 years of service? When you lose the trust of public employees, you lose the trust of Hawaii.



The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair

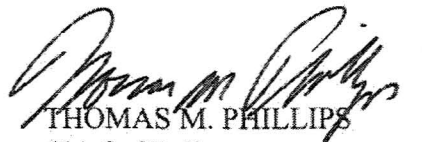
February 10, 2009

Page 2

Therefore, we do not support House Bill No. 1725, Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



THOMAS M. PHILLIPS  
Chief of Police

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

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association  
February 13, 2009

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Frances Kagawa*

Frances Kagawa



# HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

320 Ward Avenue, Suite 209 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Randy Perreira  
President

Telephone: (808) 597-1441

Fax: (808) 593-2149

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

Testimony by  
Hawaii State AFL-CIO  
February 13, 2009

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

H.B. 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC  
EMPLOYEES

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

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

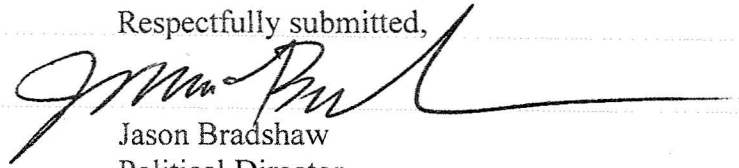
The current economic conditions are downright terrifying. Everyday, Americans are waking up to discouraging news and wondering when it will be their turn to lose their jobs. Nationwide, unemployment is at 7.6 percent, however, that number is likely to be much higher today. In addition, those that are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

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

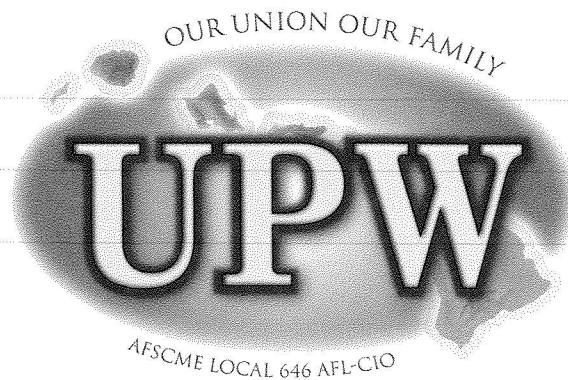
I ask that you think about the livelihood of those facing difficult times and oppose these horrible bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Jason Bradshaw  
Political Director



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

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

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

**TESTIMONY OF THE UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS, AFSCME,  
LOCAL 646, AFL-CIO ON H.B. 1725 RELATING TO THE  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND**

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, and I am the state director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW) which represents approximately 11,000 state and county employees in collective bargaining in Hawaii and 3,000 retirees under chapter 88. The UPW opposes House Bill No. 1725 which eliminates any State or County contributions to pay for the cost of providing prescription drug benefit plans to public employees from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2015, and to shift that burden to employees entirely.

When the legislature adopted the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund in 2001 it substantially eliminated the option of obtaining health benefit coverage through union-sponsored plans. The idea was to provide "a single health benefits program for public employees" to maximize the level and

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

types of benefits available for public employees and retirees at lower costs. We were advised at the time that consolidating responsibility for health care benefits under EUTF would increase the coverage pool, strengthen the bargaining power which the Health Fund (created in 1961) lacked, and drive down the cost of the various health plans. Based on what has happened in a short period of five years (from 2003 when EUTF became operational to the present), and what this measure implies it seems that some of the 2001 claims were overstated.

We do not agree with the proponents of this measure that health care cost increases in recent years are due primarily to the prescription drug plans. We urge the committee to investigate what the principal cost drivers have been, and to determine why the EUTF has been unable to implement cost containing measures. If the coverage pool of all state and county employees and retirees has nothing to do with reduced costs the statute should be amended to authorize union sponsored plans once again. Placing the entire cost and burden of a failed system on the backs of workers is unfair. We also urge the committee to review the national health care reforms proposed by the Obama administration in the interim.

As previously stated, the amount of contributions which State and counties are required to make under Sections 87A-32 through 87A-37, HRS, toward the payment of costs for health benefit plans is a mandatory subject of collective bargaining. The right to engage in collective bargaining is protected under Article XIII, Section 2 of the State Constitution for public employees. Where the legislature seeks to impose by statute the substantive terms of what should be negotiable constitutes a violation of the employee's right to engage in collective bargaining. See United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO v. Yogi, 101 Hawai'i 46, 62 P.3d 189

(2002). This measure interferes with the process of collective bargaining over fringe benefit costs and contributions which are core subjects of collective bargaining.

For the foregoing reasons, we urge that this bill not be passed.



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

**Roger K. Takabayashi**  
President

**Wil Okabe**  
Vice President

**Karolyn Mossman**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Mike McCartney**  
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
LABOR

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

February 13, 2009

ROGER TAKABAYASHI, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

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 board of trustees to make prescription drug benefits available through drug coverage plans that are 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.

Additionally, the board that governs the Hawaii employer-union health benefits trust fund has faithfully fulfilled its charge and made sound decisions affecting the coverage of public employees since its inception.

Similar plans 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.



**yamashita1- Kathy**

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

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

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

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

This is a testimony in opposition to:

HB 1106  
HB 1718  
HB 1719  
HB 1725

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

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

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

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



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**

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** Helen T. Kanae [Helen.Kanae@mpd.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 6:38 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony; Rep. Karl Rhoads; Rep. Gilbert Keith-Agaran; Rep. Kyle Yamashita; Rep. Joseph Souki  
**Subject:** House Bills Affecting Retirement and Benefits

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

Dear Representative:

I'm writing to you to voice my concerns about the following House Bills that I am greatly opposed to:

**House Bill No. 1719- Related to the Health Fund**

**House Bill No. 1725- Related to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund**

The benefits are what drew and kept myself and a lot of workers to become civil service employees. The majority of these workers have been loyal to government work and been with their respective agencies for a good amount of years. I've been with Maui Police Department for 19 years.

By eliminating benefits from employees, it will create a great majority to seek retirement and those who do remain may seek other employment when the economy does improve. There is no incentive for employees to remain with the State or County governments with the elimination of benefits.

Also, by creating such situation, public safety would be a major concern. As jobs would not be immediately filled or certain jobs would have to be eliminated

Thus, through no fault of the employees should these benefits be taken away from us. Therefore, I wish to voice my opinion that I oppose these proposed bills, which would eliminate benefits to State and County employees.

Sincerely,

*Helen Kanae*

Helen Kanae

To: [LABtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:LABtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

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

Date: February 11, 2009

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

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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.

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

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

NOTICE OF HEARING

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

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

HOUSE BILLS 1718 / HB 1719 / HB1725

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

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

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



**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Jody K.M. Singsank [Jody.Singsank@mpd.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2009 3:28 PM  
**To:** Rep. Karl Rhoads; Rep. Kyle Yamashita; Rep. Gilbert Keith-Agaran; Rep. Joseph Souki; LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719, HB1725

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members,

I oppose HB 1719 and request that you do NOT pass this bill.

I was a single female when I joined the Maui Police Department in 1986. The two main reasons I joined were: to serve my community and be self-sufficient. The starting pay was not great so I learned to live frugally, within my means, knowing that the real benefits would come at the end of my 25 year career. Now that I am near the end, it is disheartening to learn that I will be required to pay for these hard earned benefits. In my case, after retiring, I would have to continue to pay medical premiums for 17 years before I earn the "benefit" that I was promised when I started.

I also oppose HB 1725. The idea of revoking employer-paid benefits relating to prescription drugs, vision and dental plans that were promised to us, and on such short notice, is unreasonable.

Please consider the short and long-term impacts that these types of bills and actions have on your constituents. State and county workers are the backbone of the communities that you represent and are here for the long run. Taking such extreme financial measures on such short notice will take a drastic toll on the people that you most depend on in times of crisis. Please do not let your loyal public servants down.

Thank you for your time.

Captain Jody K.M. Singsank  
Maui Police Department  
Patrol Division-Molokai District  
110 Ainoa Street  
Kaunakakai, HI 96748  
(808)553-5355

**Testimony to the  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT  
on  
HB 1719 Relating to Public Employees  
HB 1725 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund**

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

Representative Karl Rhoads, Chairman  
and members of the Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 326  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and members of the Committee,

As a Maui County employee for the past 22 years, I wish to submit written testimony *against* HB 1719 and HB 1725. This bill goes against the very reason I chose to work in public safety for the county government.

Colleagues of mine brought it to my attention that this bill before your committee is aimed at suspending state and county contributions to the EUTF if we retire after July 1, 2009 regardless of date of hire and years of service.

The recent global economy has greatly affected the state of the economy in Hawaii to include revenues generated by the lack of tourists visiting our great state. State and County governments are not immune from this economic downturn as we depend on spending by both kama'aina and malahini alike.

Therefore, everyone in government has got to look at ways to manage our own affairs in order to stimulate stability and sustainability. This bill goes against the very nature of having seasoned qualified government employees working together in order to stimulate our own government affairs by forcing them to retire, albeit in some cases earlier than intended. We need to retain these qualified senior government employees and use their knowledge for this very reason.

Therefore, I urge you to vote *against* this bill as it will have a detrimental affect on the state of affairs both in county and state government.

Your attention in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bradley P. Rezendes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Bradley P. Rezendes  
Lieutenant, Maui County Police Department  
55 Mahalani Street  
Wailuku, HI 96793

**Department of Education Employees  
Submitting Written Testimony In Opposition to HB 1725**

	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>School or District</b>
1	Leslie	Spencer	Dept. of Edu
2	Lauri	Konishi	Dept. of Edu
3	Kristen	Woolever	Dept. of Edu
4	Linda	Miyahira	Kaumana Elementary
5	Justin	Hughey	King Kamehameha III
6	Kaluna	Wong-Staszko	Dept. of Edu
7	Nadine	Icari	Kea'au High
8	Kenneth	Everett	James Campbell High
9	Catherine	Ayabe	Kawananakoa Middle
10	Pearl	Abernethy	Kainalu Elementary
11	Joanne	Shibuya	Kawananakoa Middle
12	Carl	Bolding	Dept. of Edu
13	Caron	Wilberts	Dept. of Edu

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** rhoads3-Christine on behalf of Rep. Karl Rhoads  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 8:28 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: Pono= Please do the right thing and vote NO.

---

**From:** Leslie Spencer [mailto:lspencer007@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 6:24 AM  
**To:** Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino; Rep. Karen Awana; Rep. Marilyn Lee; Rep. Cynthia Thielen; Rep. K. Mark Takai; Rep. Roy Takumi; Rep. Joseph Souki; Rep. Calvin Say; Rep. Karl Rhoads; Rep. Kymberly Pine; Rep. Mark Nakashima; Rep. Kyle Yamashita; Rep. Scott Saiki; Rep. Faye Hanohano  
**Subject:** FW: Pono= Please do the right thing and vote NO.

Aloha Representatives,

I am a School Healthaide, ( hope you folks know everything we actually do!) taking care of ALL our keiki, our future, with love. I am a taxpayer and I voted for you and yours, along with all of our state and county employees.

My years of passionate public service, ( employed Nov. 1993) with HGEA as my union,, knowing that my salary is definitely a low one, however feeling secure knowing that I would be able to depend on health benefits and retirement for my future.

Regarding bills: HB 1719 and HB 1725 I urge you to vote "NO".

As you are aware, times are tough, and there must be other solutions to balance this damaged budget.

Mahalo,

Leslie Spencer

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

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

In opposition to:

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

Dear Representatives Rhoads and Yamashita,

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Lauri Konishi

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

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

In opposition to:

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

Dear Representatives Rhoads and Yamashita,

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

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

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

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

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

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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

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

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



**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** hughey2000@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 7:03 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725

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

· HB 1725

**FROM:** Justin Hughey  
421 Ilikahi St  
Lahaina HI 96761

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Friday, Feb. 13, 2009

Conference Room 309

8:30 a.m.

My name is Justin Hughey and I am a teacher at King Kamehameha III School and I strongly oppose HB 1725. I know we have to balance the budget but what I am warning you about is that a teaching career in Hawaii is a full time career that does not pay a living wage. The more benefits you take away the less likely you are to fill a vacant position. The DOE spends over 20 million dollars a year to train and recruit teachers to come to Hawaii. The majority leave in the first three years. This is because Hawaii sounds great but then they realize they can not pay the rent for an apartment without a spouse or another job. The DOE will no longer have the money to be training and recruiting teachers to come to Hawaii. I foresee major job vacancies. We are on the cusp of the second republican great depression. The teachers who can move home and be closer to their family's will. & nbsp;Before cutting our benefits, think of your kids not having teachers.

Mahalo.

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February 11, 2009

Aloha,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

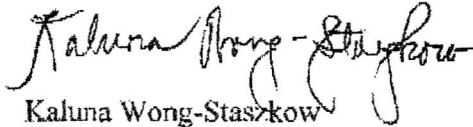
There is no one simple easy solution. Yet there is something that everyone can do, even if it's little. Every effort adds up. Why not challenge every citizen, business, organization and family in our state? Take our crisis and challenge ourselves to turn it into a positive. Go on a statewide campaign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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

  
Kaluna Wong-Staszewski

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** Nadine\_Icari/KEAAUH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 7:49 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** House Bills That Affect HGEA/UPW Employees

RE: HB 1723  
HB 1715  
HB 1726  
HB 1727  
HB 1719  
HB 1725

Dear Elected Officials,

Hi, my name is Nadine Icari and I live in your district and voted for you. I work for Kea'au High School/DOE and am a member of HGEA/UPW

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.

My spouse is currently unemployed and this will make things even more difficult for my family's financial situation.

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,

Nadine Icari  
198 S. Wilder Rd.  
Hilo, HI. 96720  
808-934-0126

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** mmorita@hsta.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 2:32 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: House Bill 1725

---

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

My name is Kenneth G. Everett and I am a teacher at James Campbell High School and I strongly oppose HB 1725. A full benefit package is an integral part of my pay package. As I approach retirement age medical, DENTAL, and VISION becomes increasingly important. To add insult to injury the state will not only take benefits away but will make us pay them to get coverage.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** mmorita@hsta.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 12:17 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: HB 1719, HB1723, HB 1725, HB 1727  
**Attachments:** pic15309.gif; pic20106.gif

**From:** Catherine\_Ayabe/KAWANANAKOA/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
[mailto:Catherine\_Ayabe/KAWANANAKOA/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 8:47 AM  
**To:** All Senators; EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov  
**Cc:** KMS\_All@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Subject:** HB 1719, HB1723, HB 1725, HB 1727

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

My name is Catherine Ayabe and I am a teacher at Kawananakoa Middle 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, as well as HB 1723, HB 1725, and HB1727, should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009. Hence, increase the shortage of qualified teachers in Hawaii. It would be prudent to suspend this bill, at least until our Federal Government can offer us alternative Health Care. This bill strips us of the trust we have for our state leaders. Also, many teachers who have recently enrolled in the Hybrid Retirement System would be unfairly discriminated against if this bill is passed.

I, and many fellow educators, as well as community members, are appalled that this bill has even reached the senate. Educators should be the last group from whom anything is taken away as our future society relies so heavily on them. I trust you will vote no and look for other creative ways to help the State of Hawaii. I believe your education would tell you so.

Aloha,

Catherine Ayabe

26 years of service, State of Hawaii

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**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** PAbernethy [pmaber@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2009 8:47 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony opposing bills HB1719,1725

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

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Friday, Feb 13, 2009

Conference Room 309, 8:30a.m.

My name is Pearl Abernethy and I am Speech Pathologist at Kainalu Elementary School with Department of Education. I strongly oppose HB 1719, which suspends state and county contributions fo EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of dateof hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's medicare retirement age. I also oppose HB 1725 which prohibits health plans from providing prescription drug coverage.

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

I have worked for the state for over 30 years as a Speech Pathologist, in special education, both areas of severe need. And yet, if these bills are passed I must now seriously consider retiring on June 30th. I must consider the very real possibility of health problems that might force me to retire prior to the medicare retirement age of 65 leaving me with limited and fixed income and little way to pay for the high cost of health insurance or drug coverage, just when I needed it the most. I have worked for many years in service to the state only to have health benefits be stripped as I approach the time when I am most likely to need it. It is not right that state and county employees are the ones to carry the weight of the State's financial difficulties. Calvin Say says he is willing to cut programs. At least, program cuts affect all in the state, not just the state workers who are now being threatened with changes that will affect their physical well-being.

Please do NOT support these bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

## **yamashita1- Kathy**

---

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

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

---

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

TO: [EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov](mailto:EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov)  
FROM: Joanne Shibuya

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

we do.

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Joanne K. Shibuya

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for you time and assistance.

**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.

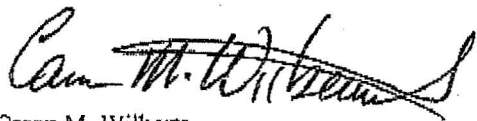
**HB 1536: In favor of this Bill.** Our higher paid officials that we have elected need to set this example. If the state workers are willing not to have a pay increase in these hard times then our much higher paid elected officials most certainly need to do the same thing. It's just the right & moral 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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

**Concerned Citizens**

**Submitting Written Opposition to HB 1725**

	First Name	Last Name	Affiliation/Position
1	Christian	Wong	Captian, Hawaii Fire Dept.
2	Kenneth	Fields	Dept. of Health
3	La'akea	Chong	County of Maui
4	Guy	Danley	County of Maui
5	Marti	Buckner	Water Resources Planner, Maui
6	Taylor	Maddisson	Civil Servant
7	Merle	Kishida	Estate & Gaurdianship Clerk
8	Gwen	Oka Dang	Dept. of Human Services
9	Gregory	Houghtaling	Hawaii Fire Dept.
10	Pat	Tompkins	City & County Employee, HGEA
11	Samuelyn	Simeona	
12	Gloria	Fernandez	RN
13	Marisa	Akiona	Public Employee
14	Jean	Tanaka	Public Employee
15	Antonie	Wurster	
16	Cindy	Kagoshima	County of Maui
17	Simone	Bosco	Planning Dept., Maui
18	Crystal	Sakai	County of Maui
19	Judy	Egger	Public Employee
20	Roxanne	Yu	County of Maui
21	Avelina	Cabais	Planning Dept., Maui
22	Jeanette	Kohatsu	Public Employee
23	Bernice	DeSantos	Public Employee
24	Glenn	Mukai	
25	Tremaine	Balberdi	Boards & Commissions, Planning Dept, Maui
26	Ken	Esclito	RN
27	Jessica	Higgins	
28	Charlene	Sakamoto	County of Maui, HGEA
29	Dan	Clark	Public Works Dept, Maui
30	Ellie	Lum	
31	Jeff	Dack	Planning Dept., Maui. HGEA
32	Jo Ann	Schindler	
33	Priscilla	Echallas	
34	Andrea	Whalen	
35	Jocelyn	Ugalino	
36	Cheryl	Matthews	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
37	Tui	Anderson	Dept. of Water, Maui
38	Jennifer	Shishido	State employee, HGEA
39	Arnold	Imaye	Dept. of Water Supply, Maui
40	Nina-Lehua	Kawano	Planning Dept., Maui
41	Joanne	Agnes	
42	Meghan	Statts	State employee
43	Wendy	Kobashigawa	
44	Nalani	Kaauamo	

45	Fredericka	Aikau	Libarary Assistant
46	Julie		
47	Susan	Dowsett	Public Employee
48	James	Pu	
49	James	Perry, Jr.	
50	Randy	Pico	
51	Suzette	Esmeralda	
52	Michael	Amore	
53	Elden	Masusako	
54	Laurie	Newman	
55	Carol	Takitani	
56	Kristi Lyn	Ueoka	
57	Odetta	Fujimori	
58	Edie	Watanabe	State Social Worker
59	Roberta	Chun	
60	Keith	Moniz	Maui County Employee
61	Allison	Ishikawa	Civil Servant
62	Penni	LaBatte	
63	Troy	Stupplebeen	County of Maui
64	Ronald	Steben	
65	Mandie	Guerra	Public Employee, Kona
66	Nancy	Nicola	
67	Erica	Hashimoto	
68	Cara	Scanlan	
69	Wayne	Lee	
70	Harry	Sprinkel	
71	Diane	Nakashima	University of Hawaii
72	Yvonne	Ching	Judiciary
73	Stacie	Sato-Sugimoto	
74	Rose	Zastrow	Public Employee
75	Holly	DeMello	City & County Honolulu
76	Lee	Kravitz	Public Employee
77	Jean	Chock	Public Employee
78	Paulie	Schick	
79	Susan	Nakagawa	State of Hawaii
80	Javier	Aceret	
81	Albert		

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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

Christian Wong  
Captain  
Hawaii Fire Department

COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

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

Friday, February 13, 2009  
8:30AM

Measures:  
HB1718  
HB1719  
HB1725

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

Testimony

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

**From:** Kenneth Fields [khfields@camhmis.health.state.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 3:34 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony  
**Attachments:** mfgcsignature2.jpg

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

My name is Ken Fields. and I am a Human Service Professional at the Department of Health, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Division, Maui Family Guidance Center. I am a member of Hawaii Government Employees Association. I want it known that I

strongly oppose HB 1723  
strogly oppose HB 1725  
strongly oppose HB 1726  
strogly oppose HB 1727

I am in favor of HB 1106  
I am in favor of HB 1536

The economy of Hawaii is built on the workforce. When you start taking away things from the workforce, you weaken it, which does nothing but penalize and harm the fundamentals of the economy. It is understood that in these difficult times, nothing may be added. But, there is no call to take things away. It is up to the elected officials to find fair ways of dealing with budget shortfalls that do not penalize, harm and dishearten some families and workers who are not responsible for the economic catastrophe brought on by short-sighted and narrow-minded capitalists and politicians. Do the right thing. Spread the burden across the field equally, such as a small increase in the GET tax, and/or a small increase in the sales tax which includes visitors and short term residents. I implore you to maintain the benefits of dedicated state and county government workers as they have been.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Ken Fields



**Kenneth Fields, MA, LMHC**  
Mental Health Care Coordinator  
Child & Adolescent Mental Health Division  
Maui Family Guidance Center

270 Waiehu Beach Road, Suite 213  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
Tel: (808) 243-1263 Fax (808) 243-1254  
Email: khfields@camhmis.health.state.hi.us

Confidentiality Notice:

This communication is intended only for the use of the addressee. It may contain information that is privileged, confidential, and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient or the agent of the recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, copy or disclosure of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify Ken Fields at (808) 243-1263 or via return internet electronic mail at [khfields@camhmis.health.state.hi.us](mailto:khfields@camhmis.health.state.hi.us) and expunge this communication without making any copies. Thank you.

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,

**La'akea Chang**  
County of Maui

February 10, 2009

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

**Guy M. Danley**  
County of Maui

February 11, 2009

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marti Buckner  
Water Resources Planner  
County of Maui

## yamashita3-Chelsea

---

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Speaker Say has said that a furlough would cause the "least amount of disruption to public

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

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

authority to unilaterally furlough state employees.

HB 1719 is also of concern to me. As a civil servant, I chose to work for less pay to be able

to contribute to the community. On balance, I believed that I would be able to count on a safe

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

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

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

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

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

times and risk losing her current level of care during her retirement. She has worked for the city for 38 years. Speaker Say is backing us into a corner, and it's not irresponsible for him to suggest that this economic crisis should be resolved by sacrificing the health and well being of me and my family. Also, by forcing people into retirement before July 1, 2009, we are gambling with the future of state programs. The loss to institutional knowledge and expertise that we could experience is putting our families in Hawai'i at risk. State programs that protect Hawai'i's children, elderly and public will 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.

BILL: H.B. NO. 1725, Relating to the Hawai'i Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

BEFORE: House Committee On Labor And Public Employment

DATE: February 13, 2009

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 309

TESTIFIER: Merle H. Kishida, Hawai'i State Judiciary

Chair Rhoads and Members of the committee,

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

I am employed as an Estate and Guardianship Clerk, and I depend greatly on the various health coverage benefits that the State provides its employees. This bill proposes to strip away crucial prescription drug coverage currently provided by the State for the period of time from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2015.

As a woman in my 60s, I have a variety of medical problems for which I require prescription medication. Losing this important benefit would cause me and others to experience severe economic hardship at a time when we can least afford it.

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



**From:** Russell Dang [dangr004@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:04 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for LAB, Room 309, 8:30 a.m., February 13, 2009

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

**COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT**

**TESTIMONY REGARDING HB 1106, 1719, 1725  
RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**

**Hearing Date:** Friday, February 13, 2009  
**Time:** 8:30 a.m.  
**Place:** Conference Room 309  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of my family. My name is Gwen Oka Dang and my husband is Russell Dang. I have been a public employee for 29 years for the Dept. of Human Services through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. I am only 52 years old and 3 years shy of my anticipated retirement age of 55 years. I will have 31 years of service at that age. My husband has been employed with the State since 1982 through Hawaiian Home Lands, Dept. of Land and Natural Resources and since 1990 with the City and County Fire Department. He is 54 years of age and a candidate to retire possibly at the end of the year if he chooses to. We have a soon-to-be 10 year old daughter. We have gone through caring for elderly parents and understand the financial and emotional realities of that situation also.

My husband and I feel as if we are being slapped in the face after many years of hard work and service to the public as a result of the many bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. The manner in which these bills are presented by separating the similarly related subjects such as vision, dental, and drugs, medical premiums and retirement benefits gives the impression of deceit and conspiracy rather than negotiation and open communication.

We both knew, that at this time, we would need to make some sacrifices, compromises and concessions. We have friends who have lost their jobs. I have always been very aware of the labor market and the challenges society faces since my job entails assisting individuals with disabilities to be meaningfully employed. Though I did not care for a furlough, I was willing to do it. I would have even been willing to pay the vision, dental, drugs portion for the specified time period had I been asked. BUT, seeing the barrage of bills that potentially could result in lost wages from furloughs, paying additional medical premiums, and most of all being told to pay the premiums or lose my medical upon retirement because we were not of Medicare age despite the number of years served, infuriates us. **WE ARE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AND NOT PUBLIC SERVANTS.**

On this date, I am specifically concerned about **HB 1719, 1725, 1106**. Though I understand the need for **HB 1106** since it will preserve my benefits in the event of a furlough, I **disagree** that the **Governor alone** should have the absolute authority to determine the details. After all, I have read that the Governor has utilized EUTF monies to build shelters for the homeless, borrowed and used money from our ERS, allowed her directors to utilize funds not allocated for the programs purpose. In general, has violated laws that protect funds and programs.

I know first hand that a reduction to salaries would be a hardship to some employees. Some of my co-workers cannot meet basic bills with their current salaries because they are single individuals without family support trying to find a place to rent, single parents with children living on one income, dealing with medical hardships and parent or child care. I also know that furloughs especially **along** with increased medically related payment listed in **HB 1725** would force public employees to shut down spending or do without services that may jeopardize the health and well being of themselves or family members. Spending is what helps the economy. Furloughs would reduce taxable income for the State because of lowered salaries. As a co-worker of mine stated, 2 days of furlough a month equals 24 days or one month salary.

I was raised by my parents who went through the Depression era. They advised me to save money for the future, but also to spend accordingly because that is what keeps the economy growing. My father was a retired State employee and my mother worked for a large private retail company and made more money during employment and after retirement. Their thoughts were: If people didn't spend at the retail company my mother worked for it would close and she would be out of a job. Isn't that what is happening now and a reason why many companies are shutting down. If everyone stops spending, even those who have jobs because of fears, who will support and purchase goods to keep the economy flowing? If people aren't working, where will the taxes supporting government come from?

**HB 1719** is extremely bothersome to my family and other State government employees I have talked with. As public employees, we chose to work to serve the community and public. We were told and given literature when hired that the benefits of employment with the State were free medical after meeting certain retirement requirements and a pension based on wages. We were willing to take the hit upfront through lower salaries, automatic deductions for retirement and higher medical premiums for the sake of that **promised** retirement future.

HB 1719 arbitrarily picks dates for retirement to get the benefits earned and promised upon hire. HB 1719 decides who can and who can't get this benefit based on an arbitrary date, disregarding the number of years of service or age. If the EUTF is truly concerned about being unable to provide benefits and can demonstrate this need, come up with a more equitable system. Why force employees to work until Medicare age, which is slated to increase the age requirements shortly. Are you trying to increase State income by having employees die on the job so you don't have to pay the medical promised? Do you really want people who may develop age related impairments continuing to work because of financial need to pay for medical benefits that they can't afford on retirement pensions? Are you willing to chance having older employees claim workers compensation due to injuries that may more easily occur with age, or increase the public assistance rolls for food stamp and MedQuest because an employee retires because of illness or caring for elderly family members and can't make it on the retirement benefits having to pay the medical premiums?

Based on the ERS Comprehensive Annual Financial Report 2007, the average monthly benefit for all retirees was \$1,773.00 with a range of \$272.00 through \$2765.00. Based on the Hawaii EUTF 2008-2009 Retiree rates the cost of a non-Medicare Medical Plan with prescription ranged from \$403.84 to \$470.00 for a single plan; \$788.922 to \$916.86 for a two-party plan; \$1,166.60 - \$1358.72 for a family

plan. I don't know how many retirees can pay for the premiums if HB 1719 requires retirees to pay the full premium before Medicare age? Could you? I know my family can't so if this bill passes I will continue to work since my husband shouldn't based on his type of occupation. Think of what this bill would do for employees working in hazardous occupations with potential for injury. Will the State really save money or just divert it into TDI, workers compensation, or the rolls of public assistance benefits?

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET that all THESE BENEFITS that you want to take away, SUPPLEMENT THE LOW WAGE BASE AND HIGH MEDICAL PREMIUMS, used by the State to bring in qualified people who could earn more in the private sector. Do you think that just because the economic times are hard, you can take that away? What are you going to do when the economy recovers and the State cannot get qualified applicants, OFFER RETIREMENT AND LOWERED MEDICAL COST SHARE BENEFITS AGAIN?

Over my many years I have seen the many mistakes of this State in trying to save money using public employees. I have been through the COMPRESSION that was to save the State money through reduction of step movements for employees which resulted in concurrent work at two part time jobs for seven

years to supplement my income until Shredding occurred. That was a big expense to the State even though I was never retroactively compensated for that money lost during compression. I convinced myself that at least I was being compensated accordingly when the shredding occurred, that I could quit the 2 part time jobs to spend time with my daughter and unfortunately my newly disabled, elderly father. I have also gone through the States changes with the contributory retirement system to the non-contributory system in an attempt to save money and now through the Hybrid, a scheme made to put money into a failing State contributory retirement system.

At this time there are many employees rushing to ERS to file for retirement because of HD 1719. If passed, the State would be paying full retirement/medical benefits and hiring new positions to fill voids left by that retiree because there is no other qualified person to fill the position within the current State workforce. If memory serves me properly I remember recently reading a local magazine question and answer interview with a politician. The question raised the possibility of an early retirement offering for State employees. The response was that it cost the State more money and that would not be done again. Isn't this a similar situation but instead of giving an incentive for people to retire, HD 1719 is offering a disincentive to remain employed? Are we really saving and at whose expense?

We refuse to be good soldiers anymore and sit through another group of legislators and governors trying to use public employees to get out of poor management decisions during their administrations. I am tired of all the threats to take away what was promised when hired. I want to retire while I am healthy but I can see myself working with ill health forced on me by the unreasonable workload as result of too much work for too little personnel. My occupation as a rehabilitation specialist requires a specialized Master's degree in order to be certified in the profession and meet the requirements of the Federal law. My agency continues to have difficulty finding qualified employees with the required credentials because of the low pay base. Many of those employed have left because of the demands and the fact that they can earn more in private and Federal jobs using the credentials.

We all need to make some sacrifice at this time. How much, I don't know. Work with us through our Union to understand the facts and figures, reasons for the proposed cuts. This was recently done through agreements with the Union and the Honolulu Advertiser, why can't it be with us? Let's be

open, honest and have clarity about what is really going on. I know the economy has been in a downturn, but I'm not convinced it warrants all that is being pushed on us and I

don't believe it will resolve the problems. We need to really look at all the programs, consultants being paid for, etc. to see that money is being wisely spent. If it is, my husband and I would be willing to agree to some of the recommended reductions. HOWEVER, at this point, we don't understand or have documentation of financial crisis to warrant all that is listed in the bills!!!

We need LEADERS, not followers who rush out of panic. You were elected to be LEADERS, to be calm and evaluate, make good plans for our State and your State employees.

Please vote "no" on all of these bills that take away benefits from public employees. Please work with and inform the public employees and our representative Unions of the true status of our government's finances. The Union knew that there would not be a raise during this negotiation period, they are not unworldly or unreasonable. My family was willing to forego a raise in the future until the economy recovered, we were ready for a furlough for a specified period of time to help out, we would be willing to take on more payments to our medical benefits for a specified period of time, we would even consider partial payment of medical benefits upon retirement until Medicare age, **BUT WE ARE NOT WILLING TO DO ALL NOR CAN WE DO IT ALL, AND WE WILL NOT DO IT WITHOUT A REAL CAUSE.**

Thank you for your time in hopefully reading my entire testimony and considering my families position and concerns.

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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

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

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

TO; Committee on Labor and Public Employment

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

And for measures HB1718, HB1719, & HB1725

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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

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

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

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

**Comments:**

Dear Committee Members,

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

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

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

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

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

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

HOW DARE THEY!

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

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

Please consider the following points:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Pat Tompkins  
Waianae, Hawaii

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** Samuelyn Simeona [ssimeona@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 6:25 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Opposition to Bills

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

HB1725 - Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF

I am opposed to this bill to halt prescription drug coverage. My husband and children are covered under my medical and receive prescription medicine monthly. Without the drug coverage, my out of pocket expenses for prescriptin medicine would be ridiculously high.

HB 1727 - Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage

I am opposed to Bill no. HB 1727 to prohibit provision of dental and vision coverage-- As mentioned above my husband and children are all covered under my medical, dental and vision insurance and to prohibit this important coverage would cause high expenses on the family. I have 4 children and even one dental visit or vision appointment would be expensive.

House Speaker Calvin Say should let the public know what kind of pain he is suffering--put a freeze on his salary and increase his retirement age and service time and prohibit his prescription drug, dental and vision coverage also.

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** fernandeb006@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 6:48 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony

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

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

I am an employee for the State of Hawaii, Department of Health, and work as a Public Health Nurse for the Leeward Oahu Nursing Section. I also live in the district that I work in. As a constituent, I am opposed to the following House Bills:

- HB 1106 Relating to furloughs
- HB 1108 Relating to interest arbitration and cost considerations
- HB 1715 Increases the minimum age and length of service requirement for retirement of new public employees
- HB 1718 Medicare Part B reimbursement only for employees retired prior to 12/31/09
- HB 1719 Suspend EUTF payments for retirees who retire prior to Medicare retirement age
- HB 1720 Reimburse Medicare part B premiums only to those employees retired before 7/01/09.
- HB 1721 EUTF benefits for active members capped at a specified maximum cost
- HB 1722 EUTF to provide the minimum health benefits plan required under Hawaii prepaid health care act
- HB 1723 Makes employer contributions to EUTF non-negotiable and capped at 55% of costs
- HB 1725 Prohibits EUTF from providing prescription drug coverage from 7/1/2009-6/30/2015; public employees would pay for entire cost of the drug plan
- HB 1727 Prohibits EUTF from providing dental and vision coverage from 7/1/2009-6/30/2015; public employees would pay for entire cost of the dental and vision plan
- HB 1737 Eliminates the high three calculation for retirement

Please take into consideration how these bills, if passed, would affect the hard working State Employees. As a Registered Nurse, who has also worked in the hospital setting, the effects of rising insurance cost will have a negative impact on when people access health care. There are questions that should be answered before passing legislation that will decrease health care options.

- 1) How will the population be able to afford insurance premiums upward of \$750 for families monthly that do not include preventative screening such as vision or provide dental care? When given choices, people may choose to purchase groceries instead of paying for health insurance. Preventative care will take a back seat and people will seek medical attention when it becomes an emergency or urgent situation.
- 2) How will the law makers help residents who have chronic conditions access health care, if it does not include preventative care? Vision screening is important to certain conditions such as prematurity and diabetes.
- 3) What will the costs be for emergency and urgent care at the emergency rooms? When prices increase, people will opt to pay for the least amount of health insurance which most do not cover preventive care.

4) What will happen to those employees with health conditions who will be eligible for retirement in the next 6 years, who do not meet the medicare age requirement? Those with chronic health conditions will be forced to continue working or use their pension to pay for health insurance. It is a little late in the game for these state employees to start considering other options.

The economy will not fix itself, however, decreasing health benefits, increasing retirement age or premiums for insurance should not be the remedy for the failing economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gloria K.A.O.H. Fernandez, RN  
Wai'anae, Hawaii

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Marisa Akiona.

As a public employee for 3 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1725.

As a civil servant, I chose to work for less pay to be able to contribute to the community. Speaker Say is telling us that public employees don't mean much.

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.

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 the bills that take away benefits from public employees.

Sincerely,

Marisa Akiona

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Jean T. [jeanta@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 6:50 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Jean Tanaka. As a public employee for 21 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1719

HB 1719- 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.

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.

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.

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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

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

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

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



February 10, 2009

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Cindy Kagoshima  
County of Maui

February 10, 2009

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

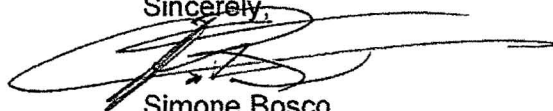
SUBJECT: House Bill 1718 Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits  
House Bill 1719 Relating to Public Employees  
House Bill 1725 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefit  
Trust Fund

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Simone Bosco  
Staff Planner  
Planning Department  
County of Maui

February 10, 2009

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

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

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,



Crystal Sakai  
County of Maui

## Lois Tambalo

---

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

---

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

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

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

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

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

Judy Egger  
Makawao, HI

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February 10, 2009

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

**Roxanne Yu**  
County of Maui

February 11, 2009

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

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

yamashita2 - Kristen

---

**From:** Jeanette Kohatsu [Jeanette.Kohatsu@co.maui.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 09, 2009 11:47 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725 TESTIMONY

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2009 LAB 8:30 am Friday, February 13, 2009 House Conference Room 309

Fax: 1-800-535-3859 ( Neighbor Islands ) [LABtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:LABtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Testimony on the proposed 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.

To Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair; Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair and Committee Members:

My name is Jeanette Kohatsu, as a public employee, I strongly oppose this proposal and humbly request this committee vote against this bill that would adversely affect my and other public employees' future. I object to this proposal on the basis that it would prohibit Public Employees' Health Benefits Plan of the employer-union health benefits trust fund from providing prescription drug coverage. Please vote no!

Sincerely,  
Jeanette Kohatsu

- - - - - County of Maui.

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**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Bernice Kaiama [bkkaiaama@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 09, 2009 11:42 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725 Testimony

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009  
LAB  
8:30 am Friday, February 13, 2009  
House Conference Room 309  
Fax: 1-800-535-3859 ( Neighbor Islands )  
[LABtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:LABtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Testimony on the proposed **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.

To Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair; Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair  
and Committee Members:

My name is Bernice De Santos, as a public employee, I strongly oppose this proposal and humbly request this committee vote against this bill that would adversely affect my and other public employees' future. I object to this proposal on the basis that it would prohibit Public Employees' Health Benefits Plan of the employer-union health benefits trust fund from providing prescription drug coverage. Please vote no!

Sincerely,

Bernice K. De Santos



## yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 09, 2009 12:43 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** spikette@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: Glenn Mukai  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 2110 Kuamoo Place Wailuku, Hawaii  
Phone: 808 2447187  
E-mail: [spikette@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:spikette@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/9/2009

**Comments:**

I am oppose to HB1725.

Many retirees are dependent on the medical as well as drug coverage to obtain the necessary medication to maintain their quality of life. With limited income seniors are struggling to just pay for their share for their medications. Many retirees will not be able to afford to pay for their medication as well as for their drug coverage, thus will do without their required medications if this bill is passed. Its very sad day when the Hawaii legislature chose to even consider a bill which will diminish the qutality of life for its retirees.

There is over a million citizens within the state of Hawaii, yet the legislature wants to make up its budget shortfall on the backs of the state and county workers, which consist of a very small percentage of its total population.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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

February 10, 2009

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
808-270-7253

----- County of Maui.  
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**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Kenneth Esclito [kesclito@hhsc.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 10:46 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** RE: HB1719 and HB 1725

I am opposed to the passage of HB1719 and HB1725. Myself, along with numerous co-workers, have worked in the State of Hawaii system for many years. We have put up with wages that are a joke compared to the private sector all because of the anticipated retirement benefits, which are now in danger of being reduced or taken away altogether. I feel that these measures are very unfair especially in light of the pay raise the Legislature has awarded itself this year in spite of the worsening economic picture.

Ken Esclito, RN

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**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Jessica Higgins [jessihiggins@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 09, 2009 6:46 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** testimony for 2/13/09 hearing

Cover letter for Testimony relating to HB 1725: Public Employees' Health Benefits Plan; Exclusion of Prescription Drug Coverage

Testimony submitted by Ms. Jessica Higgins, Registered Professional Nurse, Kona Community Hospital

Submitted to The Committee on Labor and Public Employment in response to the hearing on Friday, February 13, 2009, 8:30 A.M.

Regarding HB 1725

Please do not cut prescription drug coverage from the benefits state employees receive. The state's budget issues are longstanding. They have not been caused, nor can they be solved by reducing the benefits of state employees. People who have good jobs, with just compensation and health care coverage know the value of their jobs. They are loyal employees who work hard. Current state employees (most of us in the lower ranks) should not be asked to give up piecemeal items in an ineffective attempt to balance the budget from the bottom up. We need a far more comprehensive plan that addresses things from the top down. My family depends on the prescription drug coverage we get through my employment. Surely there are other ways to make ends meet. (As a hospital employee, I have to ask why we are not using this budget crisis as an opportunity to negotiate/demand more appropriate reimbursement rates from HMSA? Isn't that a bigger issue?)

Thank you for your time,  
Jessica Higgins

## yamashita1- Kathy

---

**From:** Charlene Sakamoto [Charlene.Sakamoto@co.maui.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 6:57 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** RE: testing

HB1725  
HB1719  
HB1737

>>> LABtestimony <[labtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:labtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)> 2/10/2009 5:48 PM >>>  
Dear Ms. Sakamoto,

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

Kathy Kato

Vice Chair Clerk

From: Charlene Sakamoto [mailto:Charlene.Sakamoto@co.maui.hi.us]  
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 12:03 PM  
To: LABtestimony; gov@hawaii.gov; ltgov@hawaii.gov  
Cc: senator@akaka.senate.gov; senaquino@capitol.hawaii.gov; senawana@capitol.hawaii.gov; Sen. J. Kalani English; senhanohano@capitol.hawaii.gov; senkeith-akaran@capitol.hawaii.gov; senlee@capitol.hawaii.gov; sennakashima@capitol.hawaii.gov; senpine@capitol.hawaii.gov; senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov; sensaiki@capitol.hawaii.gov; sensouki@capitol.hawaii.gov; sentakumi@capitol.hawaii.gov; senyamashita@capitol.hawaii.gov; Mayors Office; senator@inouye.senate.gov; bill.medeiros@mauicounty.us; danny.mateo@mauicounty.us; gladys.baisa@mauicounty.us; "jo anne.johnson"@mauicounty.us; joseph.pontanill@mauicounty.us; michael.molina@mauicounty.us; michael.victorino@mauicounty.us; wayne.nishiki@mauicounty.us; sol.kahoohalahala@mauicouty.us  
Subject: testing

Hi My name is Charlene Sakamoto and I was born and raised on the island of Maui. I have put my trust in a lot of you by voting for you. I work for the County of Maui and am a member of HGEA. I am also a taxpayer and a parent of 5 children. I spend my money at local businesses every day to buy food, clothing, and other needs such as household expenses. I also have other expenses such as a mortgage, land taxes, gas to get to and from work, school expenses, and etc. My husband and I both work so hard to survive and live on the island.

I don't believe its fair for the House to be looking at ways to balance the budget on the backs of public employees. I work very hard at my job and things are even harder now since vacancies have been frozen and demands for services have increased. I left the private sector after 20 years of service to come to work for the County of Maui knowing that I was taking a pay cut but I could rely on retirement and health benefits for myself and my family even after I retire.

I think its so wrong for representatives to take these benefits away from me because it will not affect only me but also affect my family.

Please look for other ways to balance the budget. We are the work force and it seems like the little people are being targeted on and we are the ones that will be suffering by these proposed changes. Cost of living on the islands are so high as is and now you want to strip

us of what little we have how do you think that is fair. We are actually in a time of Depression and it seems like the rich will get richer and not suffer but the low and middle class are the ones that will suffer. Why are you targeting state and county employees..why not look into other ways such as cutting non-essential programs, cut down auto expense by not allowing so many employees to use either county or state vehicles, do not give raises to anyone making more than 50 thousand dollars. Please protect the working force during these tough times because we put our trust in you and now we will see if you really will stand up for us.

-----  
County of Maui.

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## **yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** rhoads3-Christine on behalf of Rep. Karl Rhoads  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 8:08 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: Protecting our State & County retirement benefits

---

**From:** ondocean@maui.net [mailto:ondocean@maui.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2009 8:04 PM  
**To:** Rep. Karl Rhoads; Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino; Rep. Karen Awana; rephanohano@hawaii.gov; repkeith-  
agaran@capitol.gov; replee@capitol.gov; repnakashima@capitol.gov; repsaiki@capito.gov; repsouki@capitol.gov;  
reptakumi@capitol.gov; reppine@capitol.gov  
**Subject:** Protecting our State & County retirement benefits

Labor Committee members,

I would like to comment on proposed house bills that strip our hard earned benefits. I am a thirty-two year employee with the Public Works dept. here in Maui County. I have negotiated contracts and supported the PAC committee with UPW then HGEA for most of those year.

I am astounded that our endorsed candidates would author and move toward such destructive legislation: The overtime removal for salary consideration affects all police officers, firemen, inspectors, water & sewage treatment plant supervisors, all of us that said 'Ok, I'll go out after my regular shift, it will pay off someday when I retire'. Also, the bill removing medical benefits, forcing all of us to pay our own medical until medicare age.

It is my understanding that there are ten to twelve bills aimed at the public worker and their benefits. The bills that I have read and ask you to vote "no" are HB 1715, 1719, 1723, 1725, 1726, 1727, 1737, and all others that take away our anticipated retirement benefits.

You can be assured that if these bills proceed through the House and on to the Senate, it will a ghost town amongst the halls and baseyards of the County and State.

What a letdown after all the enthusiasm generated by our Island born President of the United States. I wonder if he is aware that our Speaker of the House of Representatives of his home state has gone republican, and is proposing such destructive legislation.

Thank you for reading my email.

Dan Clark (270-7423)



**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** rhoads3-Christine on behalf of Rep. Karl Rhoads  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 8:15 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: vote against HB1719, 1725, 1727, and 1737

---

**From:** Ellie Chun [mailto:coffeegirl2909@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2009 9:21 PM  
**To:** Rep. Karl Rhoads  
**Subject:** vote against HB1719, 1725, 1727, and 1737

The slew of bills slashing state/county employee benefits is most unjust. I entered civil service 24 years ago, taking a \$350 pay cut from my job in the private sector, with the thought that the retirement and health benefits for myself and my family compensates the lower pay. Having benefited from my cheap labor these past 24 years, as I now approach retirement, the legislature wants to take away these benefits that I have worked for all these years. I feel cheated!

Calvin Say talks about sharing the pain, yet all his bills target only the public employees. We have one of the lowest excise tax rates in the nation. Why not raise it and let everyone share in pulling the state out of the current economic crisis?

Please vote against these bills that place the burden of balancing the budget on just a small segment of the society!

Thank you,  
Ellie Lum

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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

Hello,

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

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

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

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

Thank you,

Jeffrey Dack  
283-1334

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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

---

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,  
Jo Ann Schindler

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Priscilla Echalas [Priscilla.Echalas@co.maui.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 9:19 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Fwd: Testimony for HB1725 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

>>> Priscilla Echalas 2/10/2009 9:53 AM >>>

>>> <[mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)> 2/10/2009 9:22 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: Priscilla Echalas  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 1827 Kaohu Street Wailuku, Hi  
Phone: (808) 270-7444  
E-mail: [Priscilla.Echalas@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:Priscilla.Echalas@co.maui.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 2/11/2009

**Comments:**

The State of Hawaii's economy is again suffering and government workers benefits are at the focal point. We are one of the lowest paid and yet we are the ones who are being asked to give up one of our most important benefit. I have been working for 25 years in hope of retiring at a reasonable time in my life while my health is still good. This bill, along with HB1719, will certainly dash that. Without the medical and prescription benefit after retirement is not an option for anyone. We cannot afford to pay the medical premiums that will be levied on us. There are many of us within that time frame of a few years to retirement who have been diligently working to attain that golden age of accomplishment. To have that rug pulled out from under us to balance the State's budget is an inexcusable means of meeting that goal. There are other alternatives like curtailing pay raises or work furloughs that could be explored. We live in a State where we take care of each other as evidenced through our support of our local sports and famous celebrities. How can we continue this morale if the very people who have helped to keep this State safe and beautiful are being subjected to such a harsh treatment? I know for myself, and countless other brothers and sisters that I have been blessed to work with, will not have that same enthusiasm. This bill may save millions, but at what cost? The economy will get better, as it always has, and we will survive. I oppose HB1725.

-----  
County of Maui.

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

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 9:25 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** andrea.whalen@co.maui.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: andrea whalen  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [andrea.whalen@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:andrea.whalen@co.maui.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 2/11/2009

Comments:

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 9:32 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** Jocelyn.Ugalino@co.mauhi.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: Jocelyn Ugalino  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [Jocelyn.Ugalino@co.mauhi.us](mailto:Jocelyn.Ugalino@co.mauhi.us)  
Submitted on: 2/11/2009

Comments:

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](mailto:cmatthew@hawaii.edu)

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

IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1725

My name is Cheryl Matthews and I have committed myself to public service. Upon first hire, I accepted a reduction in salary based on the fact that the overall compensation package would, in the long run, be more of a benefit than alternative private-sector employment opportunities available within the state and county in which I reside.

As a resident of the Big Island, there are few economic opportunities that provide long-term *meaningful* career choices for residents. For this, many like me turn to the government for employment. Further, the cost of living and quality of life continue to be eroded as our roadways are consistently clogged causing everyone to sit in bumper to bumper traffic throughout the day. Here in Kona, with only one road to travel on, a commute that should take only 5-8 minutes is taking 35-45 minutes. Gasoline and precious time are wasted sitting in our clogged roadways.

As a public servant, I am currently unable to purchase a home for my family...not because I am flagrant with money, but because there simply is not enough to cover the current costs that continue to rise of which the legislature is seemingly unwilling to do anything about.

In and itself, a stand alone proposal to suspend the prescription drug coverage currently provided for is not a huge concern. However, in light of several other proposals that have been made, this in connection with HB 1726 and HB 1727 eliminate the state and county from their responsibility as employers to provide for the basic needs of their employees. Therefore, I urge you to consider the overall implications of passing this proposal: is this worth losing valuable employees due to lack of health care and ability to continue health medications? Is it worth risking the continued eroding of the quality of life to the tens of thousands of public servants who 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*.

The passage of this proposal is not perpetuating righteousness in lives of those who make so many sacrifices everyday, throughout the course of their lifetimes. I urge you to vote NO on HB 1725.

Mahalo nui loa,

Cheryl Matthews

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

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

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

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

-----  
County of Maui.

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



TO: House Labor and Public Employment Committee

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

Bill No.: HB 1725, Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

From: Jennifer Shishido, State employee and member of HGEA

Testimony in Opposition

I am opposed to this bill for the following reasons:

1. This bill would severely affect state operations:

Many state offices already have difficulty hiring and retaining employees because of the low pay. Qualified applicants who choose to come to work for the State do so because of the benefits. When the state cut back on the medical benefits for retirees a few years ago, the applications for positions fell. By cutting the benefits without also increasing the salaries, the number of applicants for state positions will continue to fall. Agencies will have to make up the positions with overtime – which is like paying 150% more for the same service. This is being penny wise and pound foolish.

2. This bill is unfair – it's part of many proposals attempting to balance the budget on the backs of state employees. Don't listen to those in the legislature and the public who believes that state employees have it easy or are "feeding off the state's trough". If the state jobs are so attractive, why are unable to fill the jobs? I don't see the people who criticize applying for the jobs they say are so great. In reality, state jobs require either a high skill level for which many don't qualify, or if they do qualify, they get paid double the state salary in private sector jobs. In order to attract these candidates, we need to offer a decent benefit package. With this bill, the state would be renegeing on the hiring agreement.

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

Please hold this bill. Thank you.

February 11, 2009

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

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

February 10, 2009

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Nina-Lehua Kawano  
 County of Maui  
 Planning Department

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 12:59 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** jagnes@gmail.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: JOANNE AGNES  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 5400 LIKINI ST #402 HONOLULU, HI 96818  
Phone: 808-387-5093  
E-mail: [jagnes@gmail.com](mailto:jagnes@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/11/2009

Comments:  
This proposed bill is an unfair to current employees.  
  
If needed changes shall affect new employees.

## yamashita2 - Kristen

---

**From:** Kila [kilastatts@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2009 6:44 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony on HB 1725

---

Dear Honorable Representatives:

I am opposed to HB 1725. I have worked for the state for the last 14 years and even though I do not get paid alot of money, I knew that I could count on good benefits. Over the years, we have paid more for our drug plan and I think the increases were reasonable. This bill would take all of that away and I will end up having to struggle to make ends meet if I have to pay more for drug coverage. I have a mortgage that takes up alot of my paycheck and I also help my elderly mother, who isn't able to pay for housing on her own. If this bill goes into effect, I will not be able to help my mother and I'm not sure where she will end up. I don't have an extra room for her to move in with me, and I would hate to see her end up like one of the homeless that have moved into all of our parks, beaches and harbors.

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

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

Meghan Statts

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2009 8:41 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** wendy.kobashigawa@co.maui.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: Wendy Kobashigawa  
Organization: Individual  
Address: Wailuku, HI 96793  
Phone:  
E-mail: [wendy.kobashigawa@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:wendy.kobashigawa@co.maui.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 2/10/2009

**Comments:**

I can understand that government employees should also make some sacrifices, but if ALL these bills pass, many employees will not be able to afford the impact of additional expenses caused by the significant loss of benefits. For example, they will forego annual checkups or medications, which will only snowball into bigger and more costly medical issues down the road.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2009 8:50 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** Nalani.Kaauamo@co.maui.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: Nalani Kaauamo  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 180 Wailua Rd Haiku, Keane, Hawaii  
Phone: 808-248-7858  
E-mail: [Nalani.Kaauamo@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:Nalani.Kaauamo@co.maui.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 2/10/2009

Comments:

yamashita1- Kathy

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

*Per email testimony is in regards to*

HB 1106      HB 1726

HB 1718      HB 1727

HB 1719

HB 1723

HB 1725

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Completed

Aloha!

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

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## yamashita1- Kathy

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2009 10:30 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** flash\_rascal@hawaiiintel.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: Julie  
Organization: Individual  
Address: Makawao, HI  
Phone:  
E-mail: [flash\\_rascal@hawaiiintel.net](mailto:flash_rascal@hawaiiintel.net)  
Submitted on: 2/10/2009

Comments:  
House Representatives~

I ask for your support in rejecting House Bills 1719 & 1725. Many of us who chose to work in government made that decision with the knowledge that government employees are not equally compensated with those in the private sector for the same type of work.

We understood that, however, our focus was on the bigger picture, retirement. I come from a family of government workers. I was taught at an early age to prepare for retirement. I was informed by my family that the medical benefits you would receive in retirement would outweigh the difference in salaries. I chose government specifically for this reason. To take away or change these medical benefits after 18 years of service is unfair to all government workers who have already put in their time.

These proposed changes should ONLY APPLY TO NEW EMPLOYEEES. New employees are notified upon acceptance of their medical benefits & they would be able to plan for their future.

I have known several retirees who are struggling to make ends meet on their retirement income. Due to increasing medical conditions that come with age they are wondering where they can cut back to save a little money. Is it fair to make our retired generation decide whether to put food on the table or take care of their health?

Should you allow HB1719 & HB1725 to go forward, many of our retirees may forego medical treatment that is necessary. It is also my understanding that prevention is much more cheaper in the long run. A person who waits for treatment until it is too late or the pain is unbearable is much more costly to all!

In regards to HB1725, why would you consider canceling a person's drug, vision, and dental. I am a single parent raising 2 children. The children are under my government plan. Should you force me to pay 100% out of pocket for drug, dental and vision, I would have no money left over to live off of to pay my mortgage, food, utilities, education, and out of pocket medical expenses.

By forcing me to pay 100% for my drug, dental, and vision, you will be forcing me to seek government aid. Is this what you want?

The legislature should pass a bill to crack down on DEAD BEAT DADS who hide their income so that they don't have to pay CHILD SUPPORT. That is a much bigger issue. There are so many single parents who have to raise the children on their own because the non-custodial parent plays the systems and works for cash so they don't have to pay CHILD SUPPORT.

The legislature should be looking for additional money, by increasing fees and assessing costs to the providers and all the drugs addicts & alcoholics who have the excess money to purchase all these luxuries.

By allowing HB1719 & HB1725 to pass, the legislature and the State of Hawaii are breaking their contract with government employees. We agreed to be hired as a government employee with the understanding that our medical benefits would be taken care of in our retirement.

It is wrong to attack the middle class government worker who is just trying to make ends meet. Why make the rich richer & the poor poorer. Many of us government workers have only one job and one source of income, our government job! Many people in the legislature hold at least 2 jobs, their primary full time job and the job at the legislature. Many are also attorneys in private practice. Why not have the legislature give up all the pay increases that they voted for last year to fix the State's economy. What a representative makes part time, \$35,000-\$50,000 is equivalent to what a government worker may make in an entire year. Is that fair?

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** Sue Dowsett [sdowsett@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2009 11:12 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1725;Oppose

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

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

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

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Susan Dowsett  
Kailua, Oahu  
261-1841

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2009 11:37 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** James.Pu@co.maui.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: James K PU 111  
Organization: Individual  
Address: P.O. Box 448 Hana, Hi  
Phone: 808-248-8254  
E-mail: [James.Pu@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:James.Pu@co.maui.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 2/10/2009

Comments:

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2009 12:22 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** James.Perry@co.maui.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: James P. Perry, Jr.  
Organization: Individual  
Address: P. O. Box 74 Hana, Hawaii  
Phone: 808-248-8278  
E-mail: [James.Perry@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:James.Perry@co.maui.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 2/10/2009

Comments:

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** Randy Pico [Randy.Pico@co.maui.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2009 1:06 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** Rep. Joseph Souki; Rep. Kyle Yamashita  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Randy Pico  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 1827 Kaohu Street Wailuku, Hi  
Phone: (808) 270-7182  
E-mail: [RandyPico@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:RandyPico@co.maui.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 2/10/2009

Comments:

The State of Hawaii's economy is again suffering and government workers benefits are at the focal point. We are one of the lowest paid and yet we are the ones who are being asked to give up our most important benefits. I have been working for 21 years in hope of retiring at a reasonable time in my life while my health is still good. This bill will certainly dash that. Without the medical benefit after retirement is not an option for anyone.

We cannot afford to pay the medical premiums that will be levied on us. There are many of us within that time frame of a few years to retirement who have been diligently working to attain that golden age of accomplishment. To have that rug pulled out from under us to balance the State's budget is an inexcusable means of meeting that goal. There are other alternatives that could be explored. like for instance there are to many executives and assistants who get 25% and more at pay raise, they already make top wages maybe they should get a 4% raise like the rest of us, but HB1719,HB1727,HB1725 and all the new bills is certainly not the "PONO" way.

We live in a State where we take care of each other as evidenced through our support of our local sports and famous celebrities. How can we continue this morale if the very people who have helped to keep this State safe and beautiful are being subjected to such a harsh treatment? I know for myself, and countless other brothers and sisters that I have been blessed to work with, will not have that same enthusiasm. This bill may save millions, but at what cost.

The reason for choosing a county job and sticking to it for all these years for low pay is for these benefits we gave our service and to even think of bringing this to the table really shows the thanks. Economy will get better, as it always has, and we will survive. I oppose HB1719,HB1725,HB1727,and any other bills that take away benefits for the working class. the person who has proposed these bills will surely not be the peoples choice and have no place in our government office.

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County of Maui.

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**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Suzette Esmeralda [Suzette.Esmeralda@co.maui.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2009 4:13 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725

I am against this bill - especially if, on top of that, we have to pay an increase to 45 percent for our medical premiums, dental and vision coverage. As a single parent with a son in college, this could hurt me quite a bit.

I would prefer a temporary furlough of one day a month if this would prevent layoffs and keeping my benefits as is.

thank you,  
SE

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** rhoads3-Christine on behalf of Rep. Karl Rhoads  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2009 4:03 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: HB1723 and HB1719; also HB1725 and HB1727

---

**From:** Michael\_Amore/HONDO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us [mailto:Michael\_Amore/HONDO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2009 2:54 PM  
**To:** Rep. Karl Rhoads  
**Subject:** Re: HB1723 and HB1719; also HB1725 and HB1727

Dear Representative Rhoads,

I just want to express my non-support for HB1723 and HB1719; also HB1725 and HB1727. These bills aim at reducing government employees' health benefits. Please examine other avenues of saving government funds instead of diminishing state workers' health care coverage.

Mahalo,

Michael Amore



**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

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

Dear Ms. Kato,

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

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

Thank you,  
Elden K. Masusako

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

Dear Mr. Masusako,

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

Kathy Kato  
Vice Chair Clerk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

-----  
County of Maui.

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County of Maui.

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high-risk file types in attachments.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 09, 2009 3:55 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** laurie.newman@co.maui.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: laurie newman  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [laurie.newman@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:laurie.newman@co.maui.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 2/9/2009

Comments:

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Carol Takitani [Carol.Takitani@co.maui.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 09, 2009 4:11 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1725 - Please vote against any changes to current policy

Would you vote to (1) prohibit 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 if it affected your own mother????

What about the dedicated 30-year employee who cannot retire before July 1, 2009???

Please do vote against these changes.

Thank you!

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County of Maui.

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high-risk file types in attachments.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 09, 2009 3:46 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** krisueoka@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: Kristi Lyn Ueoka  
Organization: Individual  
Address: Wailuku, Hawaii  
Phone:  
E-mail: [krisueoka@yahoo.com](mailto:krisueoka@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/9/2009

Comments:

To: [LABTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:LABTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Subject: HB1725 – Relating to the Hawaii Employer Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Submitted by: Odetta Fujimori, retiree and member of HSTA-Retired  
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, February 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
8:30 AM

My name is Odetta Fujimori and I am writing in opposition to HB1725, which seeks to penalize the current retirees by taking away our prescription drug coverage and making us pay for our own drug coverage plans. This is one of the most devastating bills to retirees who provided this government with many years of faithful service. For government to now turn its back upon its current retirees because of its fiscal crisis is cruel and inhumane. Many of us are on a set income and would find it very difficult to have to now pay for our own drug coverage. I will not go into a litany of health problems that retirees face, but hope that you will honor your past promise of providing free medical and drug coverage for all retirees.

HB 1725 is not necessary. Please do not pass such a vindictive bill.

February 10, 2009

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Roberta Chun [Roberta.Chun@co.maui.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 09, 2009 4:17 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** RE: hb1719 & hb1725

hb1719 & hb1725...mahalo

>>> LABtestimony <[labtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:labtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)> 2/9/2009 3:49 PM >>>

Hi Roberta,

I was just wondering which bill you are referring to.

Thanks,

Kristen

Vice Chair Committee Clerk

From: Roberta Chun [mailto:[Roberta.Chun@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:Roberta.Chun@co.maui.hi.us)]

Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 3:27 PM

To: LABtestimony

Subject: retirement

Please do not pass this bill, for hearing on Tuesday Feb 17, 2009 @ 0830 a.m. conference room 309 state capitol.....

Mahalo,

Roberta Chun

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County of Maui.

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February 12, 2009

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

Dear Representative Yamashita,

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

**Hearing on February 13, 2009**

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

**Hearing on Tuesday February 17, 2009**

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,



Keith K. Munniz  
February 12, 2009

February 12, 2009

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

Dear Representative Yamashita,

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

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

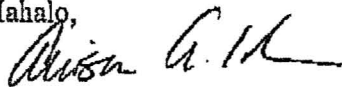
Hearing on February 17, 2009  
House Bill No. 1723- Relating to Public Employees  
House Bill No. 1727- Relating to Medical Benefits of Public Employees

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,



Allison Ishikawa  
Pukalani, Maui Resident

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:30 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** plabatte@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1106 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM  
**Attachments:** testimony - Feb 12 09.doc

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

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Penni LaBatte  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [plabatte@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:plabatte@hawaii.rr.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 Penni LaBatte. As a public employee for 7 years, I am deeply 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?

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.

February 11, 2009

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

**Troy K. Stupplebeen**  
County of Maui

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

is talking about improvements to our health care coverage.

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

Thank you,  
Ronald Steben



## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** MGuerra@dhs.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:19 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1106, 1719, 1725  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.jpg

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Mandie Guerra. As a public employee for 5 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1106, 1719, 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 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, retirees and people with a disability. 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,  
Mandie Guerra



Mandie Guerra  
VRSBD  
Kona Field Office  
(808) 323-0025  
(808) 323-0028 Fax

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## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Nicola, Nancy [nnicola@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:15 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony

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

Chairman Rodes, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Nancy Nicola. As a public employee for 6 years, I am deeply upset by the bills being introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB's #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 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 great concern to me. As a civil servant, I chose to work for less pay to be able to contribute to the community. On balance, I believed that I would be able to count on a safe retirement. Speaker Say's bill, which disregards my years of service and reduces medical benefits until the Medicare retirement age, is irresponsible. Instead of supporting public service, Speaker Say is telling us that public employees don't mean much and promises to us can be broken mid-stream.

This bill is a thinly veiled attempt to force people into early retirement. Plans I may have made to ensure that my children graduated from college before I retire are suddenly up in the air. I now have to make the choice-leave 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 myself 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. Although the bill is temporary, it is unacceptable to expect us to carry that full cost for all those years. With talk of salary cuts and constant rise in our premiums, this is just one more financial burden to the hard working and dedicated employees who work the state and city. President Obama is talking of making our nation one of full health coverage and our state is proposing the opposite.

My husband and I are both state/city employees and these bills would be detrimental to our family and futures.

Please VOTE NO on 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 Erica Hashimoto. As a public employee for 7 ½ months, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1106; HB1718; HB1719; HB1725; HB 1723; HB1715; HB 1726; HB 1727

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

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

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

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

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

Speaker Say is backing us into a corner, and it's not irresponsible for him to suggest that this economic crisis should be resolved by sacrificing the health and well being of me and my family. Also, by forcing people into retirement before July 1, 2009, we are gambling with the future of state programs. The loss to institutional knowledge and expertise that we could experience is putting our families in Hawai'i at risk. State programs that protect Hawai'i's children, elderly and public will 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.

Erica Hashimoto  
Dept. of Health  
AMHD-HSH

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:26 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** momimakame@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1106 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM  
**Attachments:** testimony.doc

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

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM ~~HB1106~~ <sup>HB 1725</sup>

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Cara Scanlan  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [momimakame@yahoo.com](mailto:momimakame@yahoo.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 Cara Scanlan. As a public employee for 3 ½ years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically HB1106, HB1719, and 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 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.



**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:08 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** wayne.s.lee@hawaii.gov  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM  
**Attachments:** HB 1725.txt

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

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Wayne Lee  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 627 Hunalewa St Honolulu, HI  
Phone: 5861930x624  
E-mail: [wayne.s.lee@hawaii.gov](mailto:wayne.s.lee@hawaii.gov)  
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 Wayne Lee.

As a public employee for 7 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1725

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:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:03 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** sprinkelh001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725 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 HB1725

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

**Comments:**

HB1725 - Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF. With the cost of drugs sky rocketing people need all the coverage they can get to pay for their drugs. There has been a new programs just implemented by the State to help with the payment of drugs for the people of the State who have no coverage. Now the State wants to turn their back on people who have worked for the State and drop their coverage. I find it hard to believe you feel they don't deserve this coverage in reward for their loyal services to the State.

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,  
Diane Nakashima

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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

**Importance:** High

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

Dear Committee Members,

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

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

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

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

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

**Friday, February 13, 2009**

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

**Tuesday, February 17, 2009**

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

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

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

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Sincerely,  
Rose Zastrow**

HB 1106 - Furloughing employees

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

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

HB1725 - Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF

- AND -

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

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

HB 1726 - Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits;

HB 1727 - Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage.

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**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

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**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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Speaker Say is backing us into a corner, and it's not irresponsible for him to suggest that this economic crisis should be resolved by sacrificing the health and well being of me and my family. Also, by forcing people into retirement before July 1, 2009, we are gambling with the future of state programs. The loss to institutional knowledge and expertise that we could experience is putting our families in Hawai'i at risk. State programs that protect Hawai'i's children, elderly and public will 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.  
Mahalo,  
The Kravitz Ohana (Claudia, Kent, Kailey, and Lee).

## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** Jean.A.Chock@hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 7:26 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony HB 1719 Specifically

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Jean Chock. As a public employee for 39 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1719.

HB 1719 is a major 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, the he cannot punish civil servants for their dedication and commitment to the state of Hawai'i.

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 1725 says that from July 2, 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 health 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 these bills that take away benefits from public employees.

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

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

Testimony Opposing:

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

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

Thank you.

Paulie Schick  
[paulieschick@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:paulieschick@hawaii.rr.com)

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

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

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I oppose the following House Bills:

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

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

Please look for other solutions to balance the State budget.

Thank you.

Susan S. Nakagawa

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Javier Aceret. 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 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.



## yamashita3-Chelsea

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 7:50 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** sugarshidaki@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725 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 HB1725

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Albert  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 3337 Winam Aveh Honolulu, Hawaii  
Phone: 256-2177  
E-mail: [sugarshidaki@yahoo.com](mailto:sugarshidaki@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

**Comments:**

I strongly oppose this bill because I've been working for the state for 24yrs and eligible for retirement by the end of this year. We work hard for the state all these years and we have to look forward to this kind of treatment. The rich should be paying for this not us middle class citizens. The poor cannot afford it so they go and pick on the middle class. The you will end up with only the rich and poor. We're just barely getting by paycheck to paycheck and they force us to become homeless and more people will turn to crime and drugs to support their families. THINK ABOUT IT!!!!

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

**(See Attached Letter)**

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

HOUSE LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEE COMMITTEE

Karl Rhoads, Chair

Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

My name is Nelani Fujimoto and I work for the state and am a member of HGEA.

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

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

**I OPPOSE:**

HB 1106

HB 1718

HB 1719

HB 1725

HB 1723

HB1715

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

Thank you,

Fax Form

TO: REP. KYLE YAMASHITA 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.*

Vote "NO" on the following bills:  
 HB1106, HB1715, HB1719, HB1723, HB 1725,

King Intermediate School  
 HGEA / AFSCME Local 152 AFL - CIO

Print Name	Signature	email address or phone contact	Position	UNIT
1 Janice Yoshizu		Jan.yoshizu@gmail.com	clerk	03
2 ANGIE K. HASHIMOTO		ahash94@gmail.com	EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT III	03
3 Foy Lee		coyo@hawaii.rr.com	Health Aide	03
4 Carol Rita		carolr@hawaii.rr.com	Library Clerk	03
5 Anna M Norris		annchenorris@gmail.com	EA III	03
6 MIRIAM KOKI		808-798-6381	E.A.	03
7 ANTOINETTE FARMER		Joan.farmer58@aol.com	clerk, SSC	03
8 Stanley Dickson			Security	03
9 Diana Jones		247-1468	Security	03
10 Julie A. Lockyer		499-4716	Educational Asst.	03
11 Charmaine Hopkinson		charm-2the3rdpowersync.com	EA III	03
12 Amy Tamashiro		239-6491	Clerk Typist	03
13 Joni Kaneshiro		jkaneshiro001@hawaii.rr.com	SSEA	04
14 Jeff Camara		235-7514	PFSM III	02
15 James S. Sabayan		236-3729	EA III	03
16 Teresa Maie		235-2974	EA III	03
17 Amorian L. Luanan		230-6394	Account clerk	03
18 Sharon Tom		sharontom@yahoo.com	EA III	03
19 Teresa Salmon		255-3577	EA III	03
20 Susan Adams		954-0082	Principal	06
21 Robert H Lockyer		2335747	Vice principal	06
22 Danette Collins		233 5787 ext 294	EA III	03
23 Aileen Yamashiro		233-5727 ext.	EA III	03
24 Marilyn Deguchi		206-4024	EA	03
25				

Date: February 13, 2009

To: Committee on Labor & Public Employment

From: Various Concerned Voters

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

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

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

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

(See attached - list of bills with signatures)

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

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

1.	<i>Nancie J. Voyce</i>	26.
2.	<i>Mavis Higgins</i>	27.
3.	<i>Benjamin</i>	28.
4.	<i>Maryk. Indone</i>	29.
5.	<i>M</i>	30.
6.	<i>Lilia C Martinez</i>	31.
7.	<i>Joyce N. Nusemura</i>	32.
8.	<i>Mary Jane F. Cooper</i>	33.
9.	<i>M</i>	34.
10.	<i>M</i>	35.
11.	<i>Ed C. O'Connell</i>	36.
12.	<i>Leonard Kuchela</i>	37.
13.	<i>Alexis</i>	38.
14.	<i>Joanne Mahler</i>	39.
15.	<i>Blud Finke</i>	40.
16.	<i>Perry M. Throda</i>	41.
17.	<i>Julia Paragas</i>	42.
18.	<i>Debrah Yon Dararjo</i>	43.
19.	<i>Caroline Awan</i>	44.
20.	<i>Bridget Kiroshita</i>	45.
21.	<i>Valerie</i>	46.
22.	<i>Rafael &amp; Alund</i>	47.
23.	<i>Tom</i>	48.
24.	<i>Garnie Sekaleska</i>	49.
25.		50.

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

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

1. <i>Rodriguez Hernandez</i>	26.
2. <i>Gregory Lopez</i>	27.
3. <i>Henry A. Pina</i>	28.
4. <i>Chris Malin</i>	29.
5. <i>Christina</i>	30.
6. <i>Mona Co. Elson</i>	31.
7. <i>Letty Part</i>	32.
8. <i>Kate Leaj</i>	33.
9. <i>Dona</i>	34.
10. <i>Trinidad Anguita</i>	35.
11. <i>Michelle</i>	36.
12. <i>Esmeralda</i>	37.
13. <i>Janet</i>	38.
14. <i>Rafael</i>	39.
15. <i>Alfred</i>	40.
16. <i>Natasha Puchalski</i>	41.
17.	42.
18.	43.
19.	44.
20.	45.
21.	46.
22.	47.
23.	48.
24.	49.
25.	50.



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

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

1. Merle G. Schore	26. Pamela Rosa
2. Audrey G. Gilo	27. Letitia Jankovic
3. Jim D. Seng	28. Paula A. Moran-Tehsen
4. Myra M. Gamm	29. Louella Burke
5. Elynor dela Vega	30. Kelly
6. Kenneth D. David	31. Melendrina Corcino
7. Norma J. Shinn	32. Wansy Osorio
8. Kelly Swana	33. Patricia H. Jotaro
9. Mary Helen Cathcart	34. Joyce
10. Phillipine Kna	35. W. Chee
11. Jim J. J. J.	36. Janie M. Eubank
12. C. Santa Monica - Young	37. Allen Z. Z.
13. Gamona Taguma	38. Mrs. H. M. M.
14. Rebecca J. Kals	39. Ann Swate
15. Miriam Rose	40. Clinton A. Whang
16. Franis P. P.	41. Kathleen Baker
17. Judy Young	42. Tina J. J.
18. Debbie High - Jones	43.
19. Gene M. Kukunur	44.
20. Georgette Portana	45.
21. Len P. P.	46.
22. Anne K. Thatsyoh	47.
23. Kathleen March	48.
24. J. J. J.	49.
25. Hong J. J.	50.

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

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

1. <i>Len Nunn</i>	26.
2. <i>Shirley K. Buchanan</i>	27.
3. <i>Wendy J. King</i>	28.
4. <i>Virginia Sakitani</i>	29.
5. <i>Chandra Deery</i>	30.
6.	31.
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8.	33.
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21.	46.
22.	47.
23.	48.
24.	49.
25.	50.

Date FEB 12 2009

To: Committee on Labor & Public Employment

From: Various Concerned Voters

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

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

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

(See attached - list of bills with signatures)

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

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

1. <i>Yori E. Sakuragawa</i>	26. <i>[Signature]</i>
2. <i>Erie Sakakimoto</i>	27. <i>Sam Plescia</i>
3. <i>Boneth Chu</i>	28. <i>Kilra Cashman</i>
4. <i>[Signature]</i>	29. <i>[Signature]</i>
5. <i>M. Umaka</i>	30. <i>[Signature]</i>
6. <i>[Signature]</i>	31. <i>[Signature]</i>
7. <i>[Signature]</i>	32. <i>Corlea Zukuda</i>
8. <i>[Signature]</i>	33. <i>[Signature]</i>
9. <i>[Signature]</i>	34. <i>Nancy R. Johnson</i>
10. <i>[Signature]</i>	35. <i>[Signature]</i>
11. <i>Annie Liu</i>	36. <i>[Signature]</i>
12. <i>[Signature]</i>	37. <i>Cheryl J. Jungai</i>
13. <i>[Signature]</i>	38.
14. <i>Tamara Chang</i>	39.
15. <i>[Signature]</i>	40.
16. <i>[Signature]</i>	41.
17. <i>Karina Nestida</i>	42.
18. <i>Charlotto Rego</i>	43.
19. <i>[Signature]</i>	44.
20. <i>[Signature]</i>	45.
21. <i>[Signature]</i>	46.
22. <i>[Signature]</i>	47.
23. <i>[Signature]</i>	48.
24. <i>[Signature]</i>	49.
25. <i>[Signature]</i>	50.

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

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

1. <i>Andri Wil. Tose</i>	26.
2. <i>Nahni Ali</i>	27.
3. <i>Ju An</i>	28.
4. <i>Setya Kalopodet</i>	29.
5. <i>Paulita Dairi</i>	30.
6.	31.
7.	32.
8.	33.
9.	34.
10.	35.
11.	36.
12.	37.
13.	38.
14.	39.
15.	40.
16.	41.
17.	42.
18.	43.
19.	44.
20.	45.
21.	46.
22.	47.
23.	48.
24.	49.
25.	50.

Date: February 12, 2009

To: Karl Rhoads  
Committee on Labor & Public Employment

From: Various Concerned Voters

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(See attached - list of bills with signatures)

If you have any questions, you may call me at 221-0840 or via email at [suzy.okino@gmail.com](mailto:suzy.okino@gmail.com).

  
Suzanne Okino

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

**Hearing Date: Friday, February 13, 2009**

**Time: 8:30 a.m., Conference Rm 309**

1. Andy Kachnaman	26. Cleopatra
2. Sam	27. [Signature]
3. [Signature]	28.
4. Wendy Li	29.
5. Caroline Okazaki	30.
6. Judy Dacanay	31.
7. [Signature]	32.
8. Susana C. Quintana	33.
9. Alan E. Shodai	34.
10. [Signature]	35.
11. Jennifer K. Mann	36.
12. [Signature]	37.
13. [Signature]	38.
14. [Signature]	39.
15. [Signature]	40.
16. Katelyn Seabell	41.
17. Kathleen Jung	42.
18. Joyce [Signature]	43.
19. Colleen B. Nakamura	44.
20. Charmaine Mack	45.
21. Loni Yee	46.
22. [Signature]	47.
23. Michael Hyle	48.
24. [Signature]	49.
25. [Signature]	50.

Date:

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

From: Various Concerned Voters

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

*at 375 7135*

*Audrey Akai*

AUDREY AKAI



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

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

1. <i>Alicia L. Hanna</i>	26. <i>[Signature]</i>
2. <i>Audrey Ah</i>	27. <i>Prof K. J. J. J.</i>
3. <i>Sau Sai Hui</i>	28.
4. <i>Wen Lyub</i>	29.
5. <i>Kristin Freguetto</i>	30.
6. <i>Donald Brown</i>	31.
7. <i>[Signature]</i>	32.
8. <i>Farley N. Lomago</i>	33.
9. <i>Mon Luom</i>	34.
10. <i>Om, Loh</i>	35.
11. <i>Amy Okami</i>	36.
12. <i>Sharon Vasquez</i>	37.
13. <i>[Signature]</i>	38.
14. <i>[Signature]</i>	39.
15. <i>Zandha Hightson</i>	40.
16. <i>Sham Kishi</i>	41.
17.	42.
18. <i>[Signature]</i>	43.
19. <i>Matthie Davis</i>	44.
20. <i>Racem Bloriger</i>	45.
21. <i>[Signature]</i>	46.
22. <i>[Signature]</i>	47.
23. <i>[Signature]</i>	48.
24. <i>Ann Watanabe Pms</i>	49.
25. <i>Celen A. Seligson</i>	50.