



LATE

House Sergeant at Arms  
House Labor Committee

For: Public Testimony Hearing on Tuesday, 2/17/09, 8:30 am Room 309

Re: Testimony in Opposition relating to Public Employee Insurance: HB 1725, HB 1723, HB 1726, HB 1727

From: Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Legislation Committee

Dear Chair Karl Rhoads and Members of the House Labor Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee. The Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports universal health coverage, strong labor practices and collective bargaining. The Legislative Committee of the Democratic Party urges your opposition to HB 1725, HB 1723, HB 1726, and HB 1727, because they move in the wrong direction on these three important principles. This testimony is submitted by Douglas Pyle, Co-Chair of the Legislation Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

The priorities and principles of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i stand in opposition to what these bills do. These bills move in exactly the wrong direction on health insurance coverage by singling out public employees and retirees for reductions in coverage, rather than moving toward universal health insurance for all. It also targets middle- and lower-income workers who make up the public employee workforce, contrary to the Party's support of fair workplace practices and benefits for all employees. Some of these bills remove healthcare items from collective bargaining, which contradicts the Party's longtime support for the right of collective bargaining.

The Democratic Party at its 2008 State Convention, with overwhelming support of delegates assembled, declared its support for resolutions and platform statements strongly supporting employee rights and universal health coverage, including the following resolutions:

Labor 08-04: Oppose Anti-Union Laws – opposes laws that undermine “the ability to [bargain] ... for fair wages and benefits,” and,

Health 08-01: Supporting universal health care is a priority for the Democratic Party. Reductions and take-aways from health coverage already provided moves in the wrong direction. “The Democratic Party of is committed to supporting steps that encourage health for all as a human right and need...”

The Platform of the Democratic Party speaks to the issues raised in this testimony. The Party supports strong labor practices, good jobs and fair pay. In addition, the Party platform states:

On Health Care, Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports “... quality health care that meets a high standard,” and

On Labor – the Democratic Party of Hawai'i: “As the party of working men and women of Hawai'i, we work to protect labor rights and social security. ... We believe that workers are entitled to organize and to bargain through their unions. ... Workers need to be fairly compensated for the services they provide,” and

We are all aware of economists' warning that the economy is approaching critical conditions. Economists across the political spectrum recommend protecting jobs and income of workers at lower and middle-income levels, such as public employees, because their confidence and spending are needed to break the economic downward spiral. These bills add burdens to middle- and lower-income workers that are likely to worsen our economic plight.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Pyle, Co-Chair  
Legislation Committee of the State Central Committee,  
Democratic Party of Hawai'i

LATE

Yara Lamadrid-Rose  
yardav@hawaii.rr.com

February 16, 2009

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair  
Committee on Labor and Public Employment  
Hearing February 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309

RE: Testimony in Opposition to **HB1723**, **HB1715**, **HB1726**, **HB1727**, and **HB1725**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to **HB1723**, **HB1715**, **HB1726**, **HB1727**, and **HB1725**. Please vote "no" on these bills.

I have been in public service for almost 25 years. These bills would hurt me, and my family, in very personal ways. Specifically, **HB1727**, heard here today (and **HB 1725** heard February 13th) are the most onerous. **HB1727** (and **HB1725**) would prohibit the EUTF from providing prescription drug coverage (**HB1725**), and dental and vision coverage (**HB1727**) for 6 years! This is a regressive bill in a state that prides itself in providing health care for its people.

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

**HB1723** also threatens state employees and amounts to a pay cut by decreasing the employer contributions to the EUTF and making it a non-negotiable item under collective bargaining. **HB1726** would also amount to another pay cut by prohibiting the EUTF from providing the current life insurance. **HB1715** would change the minimum retirement age and years of service for new employees, creating a 2-tiered employee system, which has proven ineffective and eventually unworkable in the past.

We have always been told to look at pay and benefits as a "package." Our pay is less than comparable employment in the private sector, but the benefits in medical and retirement balance the pay difference. These bills would change the ground rules of our employment in a negative way.

Please vote "no" on **HB1723**, **HB1715**, **HB1726**, **HB1727**, and **HB1725** that would take away benefits from public employees.

c: Rep. Jessica Wooley

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Cindy Sakoda [ccsakoda@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 9:48 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** House Bills

HB 1725 - If they should pass this bill, can you imagine how many of us can't afford to purchase medicine at today's rate? I feel this will hurt all of us and some may have to choose between purchasing food or medication. Please consider killing this bill.

HB 1723 - I already pay approximately \$360.00 for our portion (medical, dental, drug, and vision). Even that amount is pretty stiff today. I know that each year medical keeps on going up and I feel that HMSA, HMA, etc. should have an incentive program so people won't abuse using it. They should give back rebates to people who hardly use it (like car insurance agencies does). They should also charge more for bigger families that use the insurance more than a family of 3. Right now, we're paying the same amount whether we have a family of 3 or 8. Somethings really wrong here. Please consider killing this bill.

HB 1715 - Already at age 55, employees have health problems where some of us die before retiring. Can you imagine the government having 65 year old employees still working and how efficient they would be at that age? I don't think so. Also, if they have to work longer, can you imagine how much ERS must pay out? Most of them who get out of college and start with the government would have 40 plus years or so. With the hybrid of 2% X 40 years of service = 80% of their high 3. It would be a disaster. Please consider killing this bill, also.

HB 1726 and HB 1927 - I thought this would be a benefit for government workers. As we get older, this was something we purchased to protect us for our future. Now they want to strip us of everything we have. Please consider killing this bill, also.

We sacraficed many years ago that we would take a lower pay and work for the government because of the benefits we would have when we retire. The private firms offered more money at that time, free medical at that time, while we were paying a portion of our medical for the government. That is so sad.

I feel raising the sales tax, whether it's 1/2 % or 1 % would be fair for everyone. This way, everyone won't feel it as bad. It will help increase the spending in the economy. Also, tourist who would visit the islands would pay the tax, also.

LATE

yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** Laurie Sodetani [lsodetani@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 9:46 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: House Bills

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**From:** lsodetani@msn.com  
**To:** labtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Subject:** House Bills  
**Date:** Mon, 16 Feb 2009 21:43:33 -1000

I am a speech/language pathologist on the island of Hawaii. I have worked for the State of Hawaii Department of Education since 1985. During that time, I have traveled over most of the island providing speech and language services to children from age 3 to 20. These children have autism, hearing loss, mental retardation, emotional illness, specific learning disabilities, and speech and language deficits, among other learning difficulties. I and my colleagues have worked very hard for the State of Hawaii for many years. Several of us are in our 50's, and we worry about future speech/language services to our islands. Speech pathologists are already in high demand throughout the nation. We have been unable to recruit and/or retain trained speech/language pathologists here in Hawaii in part because the State pays a lower wage than most facilities and school districts do. If the legislature should decide to take away benefits as well, I can foresee the shortage becoming critical, with Hawaii's children being the unfortunate victims. These bills, specifically, HB 1725, 1723, 1715, 1726, and 1727, are short-sighted and will, if passed, cause unquestionable damage to thousands of Hawaii's children. In addition, without retirement benefits, won't a good portion of public retirees become a huge financial drain on the state? Please do not break the promises made to Hawaii's public workers by passing this legislation. You might save a few bucks in the short run, but the long-term consequences will be disastrous.

Sincerely,  
Laurie Sodetani  
MA CCC-Sp

LATE

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** julie t [ajmt14@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 9:31 PM  
**To:** Rep. Roy Takumi  
**Cc:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1725, 1723, 1715, 1726, and 1727.

To: Representative Roy Takumi  
Re: HB1725 – Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF;  
HB1723 – Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable.  
HB1715 - Increase, for new employees, the age and service time requirement  
to retire;  
HB1726 – Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits;  
HB1727 – Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage.

Hello, my name is Julie Tamura. I live in your district and voted for you. I work for the DOE and am a member of HGEA. I am employed at a wonderful public elementary school and have 17.5 years with the DOE.

I am also a taxpayer. There are several members' in my family that also work for the State of Hawaii. And I also have a multitude of friends' and acquaintances that work for the City & County. House Bills 1725, 1723, 1715, 1727 will affect those of us who have given many years of our lives to service the public. HB 1726 will eventually affect specifically, two of my nieces', who are currently at the University of Hawaii and want to become future educators.

In addition to this, my sister and I, are caregivers' for our parents'. We share a lot of the responsibilities within the household. If my income and/or health benefits were decreased, it will have an adverse effect in my household. If my income, medical coverage, including dental and vision are affected, not only will my income be severely affected, but my wellness will be threatened as well. I already have some medical conditions that require several maintenance prescription drugs.

I had decided a long time ago, to make a career in public service, opting to take a substantial pay cut from my private sector job. But I have never regretted the change in careers, as I have never been happier, working with children and colleagues' who share the same essential goal in educating young minds.

I cannot imagine what my livelihood would be like without the retirement and benefits. I am sincerely making a plea for you to consider NOT taking away these hard-earned benefits from myself, as well as, the many thousands of public service employees.

I don't know how it'll be possible to suffer losses in the benefits that I've worked so hard for. I may not be able to retire anytime soon, but have always hoped to be able to retire comfortably. The health benefits have been another factor in staying with public service.

I truly 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. We all work hard at our jobs and the economic crisis is taking a toll on all of us.

Please find another way to balance the budget. Perhaps, raising the excise tax would be a fairer and equal way to address the state's current revenue problem. With everyone paying a bit more, we can share the burden during these difficult times.

I thank you for your kind attention and consideration to my plea. A reply would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Tamura

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 9:18 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Marianne and I am a teacher at Fern Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Marianne de Francia

LATE

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 9:30 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Julie and I am a teacher at Kaumana Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Julie Javar



LATE

yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 9:04 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** purple66line@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1725 on 2/17/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/17/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1725

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: GLENN F. PARK  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 2222 ALOHA DR, 901 HON, HI 96815-2807  
Phone: (808) 924-3643  
E-mail: [purple66line@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:purple66line@hawaiiantel.net)  
Submitted on: 2/16/2009

**Comments:**

Chairman Rhoads, Vice-Chairman Yamashita, and Members of the Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Glenn F. Park. I am employee with the State of Hawaii. For the past twenty years, I have worked as social worker serving adults, children and families.

I will be eligible for retirement after July 1, 2009.

I am opposed to House Bills HB 1723, 1725, 1726, and 1727.

Hawaii families have been hit hard in the pocketbooks due to skyrocketing health costs and stagnant wages" said Ron Pollack, Executive Director of national organization for health care consumers. As a result many are paying much larger portions of their paychecks on health care which is becoming less and less affordable. Mr. Pollack goes on to say that if this troubling trend continues, the health care affordability crisis will get much worse and many will become uninsured and underinsured. If earnings continue to lag behind fast rising health care costs, many will face diminishing economic and health security.

The House Bills propose to halt, prohibit provision prescription drug, dental and vision coverage under EUTF, limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable, and curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits. In order to protect health benefits earned over the years, I have little choice but to file involuntarily for early retirement. Early retirement will result in a pension benefit reduction of 6% for each year under age 62. On a fixed income of a lesser amount, I will be faced with paying health plan, insurance premiums and prescription, dental and vision coverage out-of-pocket.

In the rush to address, resolve the significant and possibly protracted economic downturn facing the State, the proposed House Bills fail to consider the human cost.

Glenn F. Park  
HGEA Member  
2222 Aloha Drive, #901  
Honolulu, HI. 96815-2807

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Caroline CALDWELL [ccaldwell002@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 8:59 PM  
**To:** All Reps; sen@capitol.hawaii.gov; LABtestimony  
**Cc:** Caroline Caldwell  
**Subject:** Testimony

Thank you for allowing me to share my concerns regarding the bills before your committee that could potentially impact not only me but also many of my fellow co-workers.

I believe the following bills will negatively impact both me and many of my co-workers: HB1106, HB1718, HB1719, HB1725, HB1723, HB1715, HB1726, HB1727.

As a grounds worker with DAGS who services the Windward side of Oahu and also as chief steward with UPW, I have had the opportunity to see and to talk to some state blue and white collar co-workers.

Just this past week I've heard from a few of my co-workers how the proposed cutbacks will negatively impact them if these bills become law. One of DAGS grounds division newest workers shared with me his concern regarding lay-offs. After being laid off and on unemployment, he now hopes furloughing will save his job; he has four young children. A young woman who is a clerk with the Health Department and is a single mother with two young children is very concerned about the financial impact that even a one day a month furlough will have on her. A nurse whose husband has been laid off and who relies on the State medical plan for the whole family is concerned that their family will eventually be required to absorb higher medical bills. My supervisor is now seriously considering retiring three years earlier than he had planned so that he can be grandfathered into the present medical plan for retirees.

As legislators I trust that you will carefully consider the potential for "unintended consequences" not only for state government workers but also how these bills may negatively impact our state economy as a whole. As of this writing I also plan to retire before the July 1, 2009, deadline to be grandfathered into the state retiree medical plan. Obviously, if these bills impacting me are killed, I will be able to change my mind on retiring early.

Thank you for your time and serious concern for the workers in the state.

Sincerely,

~/Lee Caldwell

hm 235-8956

cell 722-5271

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 8:52 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Aida and I am a teacher at Fern. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Aida Martin

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Keoki Miyamoto [keoki104@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 8:25 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** keoki104@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB 1725, 1723, 1715, 1726 and 1727

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

I am providing testimony in opposition to HB 1725, 1723, 1715, 1726, and 1727. I am Jackie Ferguson-Miyamoto, long time active HGEA leader and elected Trustee of the Employees Retirement System Board. I have about 33 years of state service.

Friday you heard very compelling testimony from the rank and file. For each one that you heard there are a thousand more, across these islands, just like it. These bills are hitting the very core of employees who have committed many hard working years to public service. Not only did we come to public service for the benefits, but we stayed for the benefits and expect to retire with medical benefits like our sisters and brothers before us, and deservedly so.

Stopping any of these benefits is a dangerous proposition that may lead to many not getting the proper health care that costs so much and continues to escalate every year. Children will go without proper dental and vision care simply because families will not be able to afford them. If the employee is forced to pay more for health benefits it will diminish their purchasing power for other things, which will certainly have an impact on the greater community.

In short, these bills are so regressive if they should pass what will they accomplish?

Speaker Say said he introduced these bills to start discussion on this subject. Well this is not the venue.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 8:45 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** purple66line@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1723 on 2/17/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/17/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1723

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: GLENN F. PARK  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 2222 aLOHA DR, 901 HON, HI  
Phone: (808) 924-3643  
E-mail: [purple66line@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:purple66line@hawaiiantel.net)  
Submitted on: 2/16/2009

**Comments:**

Chairman Rhoads, Vice-Chairman Yamashita, and Members of the Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I am employee with the State of Hawaii. For the past twenty, I have worked as social worker serving adults, children and families. I will be eligible for retirement after July 1, 2009.

I am opposed to House Bills HB 1723, 1725, 1726, and 1727.

Hawaii families have been hit hard in the pocketbooks due to skyrocketing health costs and stagnant wages said Ron Pollack, Executive Director of national organization for health care consumers. As a result many are paying much larger portions of their paychecks on health care which is becoming less and less affordable. Mr. Pollack goes on to say that if this troubling trend continues, the health care affordability crisis will get much worse and many will become uninsured and underinsured. If earnings continue to lag behind fast rising health care costs, many will face diminishing economic and health security.

The House Bills propose to halt, prohibit provision prescription drug, dental and vision coverage under EUTF, limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable, and curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits. In order to protect health benefits earned over the years, I have little choice but to submit involuntarily papers for early retirement. Early retirement will result in a pension benefit reduction of 6% for each year under age 62. On a fixed income of a lesser amount, I will be faced with paying health plan, insurance premiums and prescription, dental and vision coverage out-of-pocket.

In the rush to address, resolve the significant and possibly protracted economic downturn facing the State, the proposed House Bills fail to consider the human cost.

Glenn F. Park  
HGEA Member  
2222 Aloha Drive, #901  
Honolulu, HI. 96815-2807

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 8:30 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Traci and I am a teacher at Pearl City Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Traci Tanouye

LATE

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Hiapo Perreira [hiapo@leoki.uhh.hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 8:16 PM  
**To:** Rep. Karl Rhoads; Rep. Kyle Yamashita; Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino; Rep. Karen Awana; Rep. Faye Hanohano; Rep. Gilbert Keith-Agaran; Rep. Marilyn Lee; Rep. Mark Nakashima; Rep. Scott Saiki; Rep. Joseph Souki; Rep. Roy Takumi; Rep. Kymberly Pine; LABtestimony  
**Subject:** DO NOT SUPPORT HB 1725

Distinguished Representatives of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment:

My name is Hiapo K. Perreira and I am an Assistant Professor of Hawaiian Studies at UH Hilo. I am emailing to express my complete opposition to the HB 1725 relating to the Hawai'i Employer-Union Health Benefit Trust Fund to be heard on February 17 @ 8:30am. I urge you to vote likewise.

VOTE TO OPPOSE!!!

Respectfully submitted,

Hiapo K. Perreira  
PO Box 6225  
Hilo, HI 96720

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Lynn Donovan [lyndono40@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 8:15 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Bills Targeting Public Servants

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today. My name is Lynn Donovan. As a public employee for more than 25 years, I am very concerned and upset about all the bills targeting public employees. I have worked and continue to work for significantly less than in the private sector. I hope that I live long enough to be able to retire with a decent pension and benefits after all the years of dedicated public service. There are a number of us that have accepted the lower salary in exchange for this promise.

Please see my comments regarding some of the bills that will take away public employee benefits:

HB 1725 - stop covering prescriptions. Many employees will be forced to choose between medications and other basics. As a result more sick leave will be needed and/or productivity will be harder to maintain. As an employer that is demanding employees do more with less resources, this is very counterproductive. Medications are essential for so many.

HB723 - limit employer contributions to 55% for medical costs and this will be non-negotiable. This will mean increased health costs for public employees that are already struggling to cover basics. Making this a non-negotiable benefit is a big concern.

1727- prohibit coverage of dental and vision for public employees. Again, the health of public employees is critical to maintaining a productive workforce that is constantly being expected to do much more with less. Loss of these important health benefits will negatively impact providers of these services as many employees will need to make choices between such things as new glasses to see better versus paying for food and other essentials. This will negatively impact the State economy.

Will cuts in benefits be implemented for everyone that works for the State? The governor, cabinet, judicial, exempt positions etc? Will these impact former governors, legislators etc?

The State needs look at ways to help employees save money on basics so at least the current salary will go a little farther.

Examples:

- 1.) Allowing public employees to telecommute 1 or 2 days a week would reduce travel costs allowing more dollars to be used for other essentials that keep getting more expensive. In my case, there are no buses from the windward side to Kapolei - the "second city" and I have emailed concerns to the local City and County officials. The response has not been positive. Gas and vehicle repairs are major costs for those who have to commute long distances. The cost of gas is starting to creep up again.
- 2.) Electricity rates are high so are another significant cost of living. We currently have solar water heating and have cut back on energy usage by drastically reducing A/C, turning off lights, installing a



more sophisticated timer on the water heater etc. I want photovoltaic panels installed to save on energy costs and am sure there are others that would like to do the same. There are some tax credits but the cost of installation - needing a building permit and having to meet a wide variety of regulations increases the cost - making this much more financially difficult for the public including State employees. Streamlining this process to make it more affordable would also benefit the community by reducing the State's dependence on imported oil. It is challenging to afford larger mortgage payments to go "green" when benefits are being threatened and furloughs are being discussed.

Speaking of energy costs, the building where I work is so very cold. I have to wear multiple layers of clothes. It must cost a lot for the A/C to work that hard all day. Workmen came recently to remove some of the lights in the office to save energy which seemed so very minor compared to the amount to keep the building that cold. I understand the State has to find ways to pay these high electrical bills and other costs. Public employees are being bombarded with cuts in benefits which is very frustrating. Better control of costs should be a priority.

There is so much discussion about stimulating the economy and people need money to spend. These bills will force a lot of people to cut back on spending thereby worsening the recession. A number of state employees are the sole source of income for their families. We are being told to save money in case we lose our job. It is impossible when struggling to cover the basics.

Positions have been frozen and resources reduced which makes jobs more difficult for employees still working for the State.

More fees and increased taxes on gasoline etc. are being proposed to fund large transportation projects. Many taxpayers are concerned about how to pay these increased costs and that these collected funds are used appropriately. There needs to be sufficient oversight by the State on contracts and contractors need to be held accountable. If they don't provide services appropriately, they should be paid accordingly. The tax for rail transit has made everything cost more and I am sure the projected costs are not nearly what the actual ones will be. I expect to pay a lot more in the coming years.

I understand there is a large budget deficit that needs to be addressed. There must be other ways that can positively impact the budget and not punish public employees struggling to meet the ever increasing demands of the job and still afford to live in Hawaii. These are very difficult times and I am certainly feeling the effects. I know others are suffering more and yet others are doing very well.

Thank you for considering my comments and concerns when voting on bills that will hurt public employees and their families. There are a number of other bills being considered this session.

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**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** Lorene CS [lorene.cs@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 8:15 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Please do not take away our hard earned benefits HB1718, HB1719, HB1723, HB1725, HB1727

Regarding HB1725 Halting prescription drug coverage under EUTF  
HB1727 Prohibiting provision of dental and vision coverage  
HB1723 Limiting employer contribuion to 55% and makd it non-negotiable  
HB1718 Halting reimbursement for medicare part B premiums  
HB1719 Stopping employment contributions for health benefits

Please do not pass these bills. My husband and I are both state employees, each with 20 + years of service. We do not feel this is fair. Please leave the prescription drug, dental, and vision coverage in place as is. We need the medical assistance. Also as we look ahead for retirement in the future, please do not tamper with the retirement benefits. If protecting our current medical and retirement coverage could be worked out through furloughs, done with the protection of our benefits as outlined in HB1106, we would support furloughs.  
Chad and Lorene Saldebar

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Norina Barcenas [prayer4dv@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 8:06 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1536, HB1106, HB1718, HB1719, HB1725

I oppose the above proposed bills.

I understand the financial situation our nation is facing will affect our State's economy as well. However, for years, government workers have been the backbone of this great city of Honolulu, working to support their families and live to stay off of the beaches. There must be another way to balance our economy in Hawaii to sustain our local lifestyle and culture.

With the passage of the above bills, state employees will not be able to retire to enjoy the remainder of their lives. Spending on restaurants, sports events, retail stores, will be dramatically decreased because state employees will not be spending a lot of money because they will be forced to save instead. Dreams and plans of trips with children and grandchildren to the mainland and around this state will be lost because of the need to save just to survive. This will definitely affect our state's economy because the local dollar will not be circulating, instead will be tied up in mutual funds, CDs, or tucked safely away in our homes. Not only will this affect the financial stability of this state, but stress levels will increase, health will be affected, and medical expenses will soar. The need to continue to work beyond what might be physically challenging for some people will certainly affect the workplace, co-workers and be a risk for carelessness and employee injury and burnout.

I urge you not to pass these bills.

Thank you.

Norina Barcenas

yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 8:08 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michelle and I am a teacher at Pearl City HS. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Hakes

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Mary-Lynne Ludloff and I have been a public employee for the past 20 years. I am sincerely upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1719 and HB 1725. I strongly urge you to oppose these house bills that "take-away" from public employees.

I work as an Educational Assistant III at Castle High School in the Windward District. I am a single-parent of two high school students, and have a take home pay of about \$30,000.00. We are lucky that we are able to live in public housing but strive to someday own a place of our own. I will be 62 years old in May and have had two shoulder surgeries and spine surgery in my neck, all from work-related injuries. I would love to retire and pursue a higher education but there is little hope that is possible as it is, let alone if these bills are passed. I am expecting my twenty-first grandchild but I have little energy for grandchildren at the end of the day because my job takes a lot from me. I know that if I retired, I would have to find a part-time job because it would be impossible to live on my income as a single person.

Each day of the year, we (educational assistants statewide) strive to make a difference in the education of students across the state. We always seem to be faced with budget cuts and empty promises, along with constant threats for not passing the NCLB requirements. Many of us have attained college degrees on our own time, away from our families to be better educators. Our jobs are not glamorous and we are not highly paid. We continue to show up at work and make the students the stars of tomorrow. We are dedicated to the success of our students, and take pride in knowing that President Obama feels education is the driving force that guides the leaders for the future!

HB 1719 changes the game plan for all public workers. All of a sudden we are burdened with additional costs. I am forced by a power that will take away my benefits to make me consider what my dollars, can pay for and when I am allowed to retire. With rising medical co-payment costs, there is little or no dollars left for simple pleasures you take as a necessity. Things like the internet, cell phones, and other everyday pleasures you may take for granted are financial challenges with our pay scale. In the world today, we count on dedication and commitment. As an employee of the State, I counted on my Retirement and Benefits knowing that my counterparts in the private sector had higher wages. Our small rewards were seeing Dick and Jane graduate from high school and college and venture into the community to become successful citizens. One highlight of my life was walking through Longs and having a young woman tell me she was attending Windward Community College because of me and that every day she thinks about me and the difference I made in her life by talking her out of quitting school. Our jobs will always reward us in our hearts, just as we nurtured our student's hearts. Our benefit was to make sure our hearts would endure a robust and healthy life; please oppose HB 1719 and HB 1725.

HB 1725 would give the burden of prescription medicine to public workers who are already underpaid, and working two or three jobs to suffice. For me, this would again mean choosing between survival needs like food and shelter. Will it come to deciding that my prescription drugs

are just a comfort item versus a survival detail? I have to ask, would the legislature make us choose and suffer so they may pass this bill? Prescription Drug coverage is something I rely on. As representatives, you highly rely on your office staff. What measures would you go to if they were suddenly cut from your budget/office? Keep in mind also, that working in the school environment each day, we are at a higher exposure to the many illnesses like the common cold, and flu. With the rising cost of everything but our wages, our lives have become a challenge from day to day. We implore that you vote "NO" on HB 1725.

LATE

## HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org [do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org]

**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 2:47 PM

**To:** LABtestimony

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### Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009

Conference Room 309

08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Patricia and I am a teacher at Pearl City Highlands Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Park

LATE

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

do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org [do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org]

**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 7:48 PM

**To:** LABtestimony

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### **Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is James G. and I am a teacher at Waianae Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
James G. Cadiz Jr.



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

do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org [do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org]

**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 7:59 PM

**To:** LABtestimony

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### **Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lisa and I am a teacher at Kealakehe Intermediate. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Diaz

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

do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org [do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org]

**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 6:50 PM

**To:** LABtestimony

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### **Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amy and I am a teacher at Keaau Middle School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Amy Okino

LATE

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

do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org [do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org]

**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 6:52 PM

**To:** LABtestimony

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### **Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tara and I am a teacher at Stevenson Middle School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Tara Otomo

**LATE**

Ivette Rodriguez [ivette\_hi@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 6:58 PM**To:** LABtestimony

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Committee on Labor and Public Employment  
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Care  
Tuesday, February 17, 2009  
8:30 a.m.

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

Dear Representatives:

I respectfully submit my testimony in great opposition to *HB1725 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefit Trust Fund*, aimed at prohibiting EUTF from providing drug coverage. The answer to our state's dire economic situation can not be to place the burden on our dedicated public workforce. Doing so will only worsen our state's economy as families will not be able to even meet their basic leaving expenses if monthly income has to be redirected to drug plan premiums. Many families will be forced to make difficult decisions about their health care, e.g., delaying health care and medication to delay costs, which will in turn place the well-being of our children and families at risk and perhaps further drain an already strained medical care system.

I implore legislators come up with solutions that do not further strain our citizens, but to take a page from our national leaders in addressing our economic situation and come up with creative, thoughtful and more humane solutions that consider the children and families in our state.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ivette Rodriguez Stern  
Junior Specialist  
University of Hawaii at Manoa

---

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**pay raises on the one hand and benefits dropped on the other**

Robert Domingos [mingokau@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 7:02 PM

**To:** LABtestimony

**Cc:** Rep. Robert Herkes

---

Pay raises on the one hand and benefits dropped on the other !

Your constituents in the district of Ka'u shout a loud OPPOSED to all four:

NO on HB1719 and HB1723; NO on HB1725 and HB1727

Robert Domingos  
Wai'ohinu

LATE

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

do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org [do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org]

**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 7:12 PM

**To:** LABtestimony

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### **Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Antonia and I am a teacher at Waianae Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Antonia Kaai

**Re: HB1725 Hearing, Tuesday, February 17, at 8:30 a.m.**

**LATE**

microhi@yahoo.com [microhi@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 3:18 PM

**To:** LABtestimony

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To: The House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Re: *HB1725* Hearing, Tuesday, February 17, at 8:30 a.m.

I request that you vote against *HB1725*. As a community college science instructor for Hawaii's next generation, I am a public servant. I take my responsibilities very seriously and hope that the State acknowledges my essential contribution to our society. Hawaii's youth are already disadvantaged if they have had to attend most of our public schools. The community college allows them an opportunity to develop skills that the public schools fail to teach them (for whatever reason). I spend a considerable amount of time outside of the classroom helping my students individually and designing class content that enables the students to develop learning, study, and life skills (e.g., nutrition).

I am a public servant. My students need me to help them get ahead in life and not fall prey to the local status quo of low paying jobs, illegal drugs, etc. I have asthma and allergies. These are not diseases that one can control at will, as is the case with certain types of diabetes, high blood pressure, etc. And even with controllable diseases, sometimes people NEED medicine while they are implementing lifestyle changes. I cannot control the pollen, mold, VOG, etc. To a limited extent, all I can do is control my disease. Asthma is a potentially life-threatening illness. My students need me to breathe and to be healthy.

Asthma medications are EXPENSIVE and medication needs to be readily available for sudden attacks. In addition, inhaled steroids help reduce the number and severity of attacks. All these medications are expensive, but necessary for an asthmatic to LIVE, let alone perform well at one's job. I already pay high copayments for the right asthma medications for me. I have had to pay full price for a "spacer," which is a device that helps deliver the medication to the lungs, rather than having it land on the tongue where it is useless. The spacer was not covered (cost \$65) and now it is being considered that my asthma medication will not be covered at all by the State that I serve? Does this make sense? I am a public servant.

What about the many others who need certain medications to function? Some people cannot live without asthma medicine. Some people cannot function well because they need other types of medications for diseases that are beyond their control. For example, what about the female public servant who is perimenopausal? And therefore, can't function without hormone treatments due to fatigue and dizziness.

By denying prescription benefits to public servants, the State is in a sense disabling its own workforce. Also, why are we forced to put money into a mandatory retirement fund if we may need that money in the present to buy medication or get our teeth fixed? Have you given up your prescription drug benefits as an elected official who is proposing to take away that of other public servants? Have you given up ANY benefits that our tax dollars pay for? What is pono?

Even if EUTF members are offered group rates, the fact that we would have to pay our full premium is just another chipping away at our already gouged paychecks. This means less money for EUTF

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individuals to provide for their families, save for the future, and pump into the local economy. In addition, finding an insurance carrier may be difficult because there needs to be assurance that a large number of employees will participate.

Furthermore, how does the State expect to attract and keep high quality public servant leaders in Hawaii? How does the State expect Hawaii's next generation of public servant leaders to be trained if there are few competent and healthy ones to lead them?

Please consider how this bill, if passed, will affect the present and future of Hawaii's economy, workforce, and youths. Please consider my contribution to the future of Hawaii's youths and vote against *HB1725*. The outcome of this issue will affect how I vote for governor in the next election. Even though I voted for Governor Lingle, I will not vote for Duke Aiona, or anyone else involved in the passing of this bill, if my benefits are lost.

Respectfully submitted, Ms. Adrienne Sentell  
Lecturer CC, Math and Science Division  
Leeward Community College



LATE

**Testimony for HB1725 on 2/17/2009 8:30:00 AM**

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 3:22 PM

**To:** LABtestimony

**Cc:** Michelle\_Harrington@notes.k12.hi.us

---

Testimony for LAB 2/17/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1725

Conference room: 309

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Michelle Harrington

Organization: Individual

Address: 1515 California Ave Wahiawa, HI 96786

Phone: 808-622-6592

E-mail: Michelle\_Harrington@notes.k12.hi.us

Submitted on: 2/16/2009

**Comments:**

My name is Michelle Harrington, I am an athletic health care trainer in the Department of Education. I am strongly opposed to HB 1725 as it will increase the economical burden of Hawaii's state employees. Please do not pass this bill, as this bill with the other bills (HB1721,HB1722,HB1723, HB1726, HB1727) currently before this legislative session will increase the economic burden on all of Hawaii's citizens.

## HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

LATE

do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org [do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org]

**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 3:22 PM

**To:** LABtestimony

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### Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kathy and I am a teacher at Waihee School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Kathy Miyasato

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

do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org [do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org]

**LATE**

**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 3:23 PM

**To:** LABtestimony

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### **Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lisa and I am a teacher at Gus Webling Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Kaneshiro

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

do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org [do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org]

**LATE****Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 3:39 PM**To:** LABtestimony

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**Testimony Message****Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Stephanie and I am a teacher at Kailua Intermediate. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Ching

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

do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org [do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org]

**LATE**

**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 3:40 PM

**To:** LABtestimony

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### **Testimony Message**

**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Helen and I am a teacher at Lokelani Intermediate School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Helen Tam

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

do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org [do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org]

**LATE**

**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 3:58 PM

**To:** LABtestimony

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### **Testimony Message**

**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Fairfax and I am a teacher at Lanai. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Fairfax Reilly

**HB 1727, HB 1725****LATE**

Jenna\_Umeno/MAUIDO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
[Jenna\_Umeno/MAUIDO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us]

**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 4:04 PM

**To:** LABtestimony

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Aloha,

I am a 1st-year speech language pathologist (slp) working in the elementary school setting on Maui. I understand that times are hard, and I'm very new to all of this, but I am concerned on how these bills will affect county and state employees; more specifically hiring the needed employees to provide services to the community. It has been very hard to recruit slps to work in Hawaii and fill needed positions, and a very big incentive are medical (prescription drug, vision, and dental) benefits that come along with working for the DOE. Because I'm new, I depend a lot on the more experienced slps who have been working in the school system for 5, 10, 20, even 30 years now. I'm very concerned on what will happen to these "mentors" of mine if these bills are passed. A lot of them have families and are responsible for growings expenses as is. Not only are they vital in helping me through my busy 1st year, but they are irreplaceable at their schools as they are making a difference in children's lives everyday. Please take this into consideration when reviewing these bills.

Mahalo,  
Jenna Umeno

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

do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org [do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org]

**LATE**

**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 4:11 PM

**To:** LABtestimony

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### **Testimony Message**

**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Fran and I am a teacher at King Intermediate School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Fran Bellinge



**LATE****anti-labor bills**

pw [goldd@hawaiianisp.com]

**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 4:35 PM**To:** LABtestimony

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Dear Committee Members,

I am opposed to the below mentioned bills:

\*

HB1106, \*HB1725 – Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF;  
HB1723 – Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable;  
HB1715 – Increase, for new employees, the age and service time requirement to retire;  
HB1726 – Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits;  
HB1727 – Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage.

It seems that the governor and apparently some legislators feel that the only way to cut the deficit is to do so on the backs of state workers which would dramatically affect the livelihood me and many others. My budget is based on my currently salary. I pay my bills based on what take home in my check. So it is with great concern when you are considering bills that will cut my pay anywhere from 5% to 30%. This kind of cut will jeopardized my economic solvency. Imagine you as legislators taking similar cuts and not making a financial impact on your life.

I urge you to reject the above mentioned bills.

Sincerely P.Watanabe

P.S. Below is a email message to my Calvin Say(the instigator of this anti-labor legislation)

"Mr. Say,

I am astonished that you are trying balance the state budget on state employees. What is more astonishing is that you support pay raises for your own PART TIME JOBS. I would love to make the amount of money the legislators make for 3 months of work. If you feel that your jobs are full time jobs, change the law and make it officially a full time position. \_And if you are asking everyone to sacrifice, shouldn't you as House speaker be a example for everyone and give up your pay raise, take a additional pay cut and give up your state benefits.\_

Mr Say if you continue to support anti state employee legislation I will NOT vote for you. Also, I will convince my mother to NOT vote for you too.

If you fail to heed this advice, I will consider voting for a republican candidate against you.

As a state employee I went through similar cutbacks, but the process was to cut all temporary employees first, cut all emergency employees, cut all exempt positions, reduce programs, cut tax credits to businesses and

then consider RIFFs.

The process WASN'T to cut state employees benefits.

I suggest you consider a excise tax increase.

Sincerely a concerned constituent and state worker

Paul Watanabe "

**LATE**

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

do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org [do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org]

**LATE****Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 4:40 PM**To:** LABtestimony

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**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Maile and I am a teacher at Momilani Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Maile Yasui

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

do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org [do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org]

**LATE**

**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 5:04 PM

**To:** LABtestimony

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### **Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is maria and I am a teacher at Pukalani. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
maria haines

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

do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org [do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org]

**LATE**

**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 5:09 PM

**To:** LABtestimony

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### **Testimony Message**

**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Maria and I am a teacher at Pukalani Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Maria Haines



**Re-sent with my address...**

Bran-D Foster Heckman [brand808@gmail.com]

**LATE**

**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 5:54 PM

**To:** LABtestimony

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

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

HB1725 Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF;  
HB1723 Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable;  
HB1715 Increase, for new employees, the age and service time requirement to retire;  
HB1726 Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits;  
HB1727 Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage.

I am a hard worker and proud to be a State Worker. I could make much more money and spend less time doing extra paperwork or in meetings in the private sector. However, I work at reduced pay for the benefits afforded State of Hawaii workers. Please do not vote in favor of these bills, as they would negatively impact our work force.

Thank you for your time,

Bran-D Foster Heckman  
2507A Rainbow Dr  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

LATE

## HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org [do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org]

**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 6:22 PM

**To:** LABtestimony

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### Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is caryn and I am a teacher at kailua elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
caryn rosen



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

do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org [do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org]

**LATE**

**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 6:31 PM

**To:** LABtestimony

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### **Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Saiselu and I am a teacher at Ka'a'awa Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Saiselu Walker

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

do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org [do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org]

**LATE**

**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 6:44 PM

**To:** LABtestimony

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### **Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Hope and I am a teacher at Pohakea Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Hope Espinda

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 2:16 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Linda and I am a teacher at Campbell High. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Linda Kumasaki

Testimony re: Take away Bills

Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair Labor Committee  
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair, Labor Committee,  
Members of the Committee on Labor,

LATE

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THE SIX YEAR RECESSION EXTENSION PACKAGE OF 2009

The proposed take away bills are counterproductive to the philosophy that the government should be doing everything in it's power to stimulate the economy, and not to drag it down.  
The numerous attacks that these bills have on government employees pay and benefits are short-sighted and foolhardy.

Let's look at just a few ways that these legislative proposals in question stimulate Hawaii's economy:

- 1) Drastically reduce the take home pay of the 40,000+ government employees in the range through furloughs that equal a 5% reduction in pay per day for each furlough day
- 2) Reduce the workers take home pay by an additional \$250+ monthly to cover an increase to proposed family plan medical insurance premiums. This would also cause a severe reduction in spending by the largest employee group in the state. These draconian reductions are GAURANTEED to further drag down the state's economy as nearly ALL 40,000 employees who are presently scrapping by will restrict their spending.
- 3) Force the workers who retire after 6-30-09 to incur huge increases in the cost of medical insurance premiums due to non-payment by the state. This will result in no spending (economic stimulus) by anyone retiring in the near future due to lack of affordability. This is also a great way to thank workers who have given decades of service to the State of Hawaii who will now be on fixed incomes.
- 4) The state will need to pay out millions of dollars in cash to buy out the exodus of employees that will retire before 6-30-09. The state still owes them their vacation pay, up to 112 days of wages for each forced retirement.

The state and county governments do not produce widgets and gadgets that we sell to the residents and visitors to Hawaii to generate revenue for the government. We provide critical services to the people of Hawaii by taking care of the less fortunate, protecting our food and water supplies, and saving people's lives from criminals and disasters alike. In other words, governments' role is to allow the people of Hawaii to live in a manner to which they have become accustomed. The HGEA had no role in creating any of the governments programs or personnel in State or City government, this was the role of our lawmakers who decided that the people of Hawaii needed some type of service in order to make life in Hawaii better for all our visitors and residents.

Therefore the product we sell is shared by all the people in Hawaii, and we should ALL share in the costs of this economic downturn. This means that all residents and visitors must share equally in the "pain" that the lawmakers speak of.

Balancing the state's budget on the backs of government employees is not "sharing the pain". If the proposed cuts go through all that will be accomplished is to extend the recession in Hawaii until 2015.

Aloha,  
Peter Oshiro, HGEA Member  
95-1076 Pikoeka St.  
Mililani, HI 96789

yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 10:05 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gaylen and I am a teacher at Kailua High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Gaylen Pasion

LATE

yamashita2 - Kristen

---

**From:** Marbeth Aquino [akau\_aquino96795@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 4:28 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** akau\_aquino96795@yahoo.com; Paul Akau; Kamakana Aquino  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* BILLS #1106, #1719,#1725, #1723, #1726, #1727, #1715

ALOHA,

AGAIN, I AM AGAINST THE TAKING AWAY FROM YOUR EMPLOYEES BECAUSE, WE SHOULD NOT BE HELD LIABLE FOR YOUR MISTAKES IN YOUR SPENDING. I CALL ON ALL OF YOU AS LEGISLATURES. TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT AND PONO. PLEASE HEAR THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII. REMEMBER WE ARE TAX PAYORS, TOO!

MAHALO

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 6:58 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alice and I am a teacher at Kahuku Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Alice Enos

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:09 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Linda and I am a teacher at Pearl City Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Linda Warashina



LATE

yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 6:58 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Pamela and I am a teacher at Hickam Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Pamela Hall

yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** milton m [m\_mukai@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 6:43 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\*

Hi, my name is Milton Mukai and I work for the University of Hawaii at Manoa and am a member of the HGEA.

I'm also a taxpayer and spend my money at local businesses regularly to buy food, clothing and other needs such as medication; my copayment amounting to approximately 9% of my net income per month and have received recent notification of an increase in my rent of about 8% effective March 2009.

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 in the department I work with and demands for services have increased.

Less income means less spending that will only contribute to the erosion of the fading economy and I fail to see the rationale behind some of the bills recently introduced in the State of Hawaii Legislature by Representative Calvin Say which I feel is mean spirited and targets Hawaii government workers and their families:

HB1725 – Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF;  
HB1723 – Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable;  
HB1715 – Increase, for new employees, the age and service time requirement to retire;  
HB1726 – Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits;  
HB1727 – Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage.

He should be ashamed of himself for viewing public workers in this light who work hard to serve the public; not become scapegoats.

I've made a career in public service knowing that my pay may not be as good as in the private sector but I could rely on retirement and health benefits for myself and my family. I think it's wrong for representatives to take these benefits away from me.

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

Thank you,

Milton Mukai

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LATE

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**From:** Glenda\_Georgens/MAUIDO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 6:40 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Sec 4 of HB 1106;HB1719;HB 1725

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony concerning the above mentioned bills. I have been a public employee working in the Department of Education on Maui as a Behavior Health Specialist V for four years now and I am very concerned about the bills introduced by speaker Calvin Say.

HB 1106 is written to "protect the rights of public employees" in the event of a furlough. Speaker Say thinks that the furlough would cause the "least amount of disruption to public service." I

I question the Speaker regarding our need for appropriate and needed improvement of our students academic performance. How is a day of furlough a month going to help the DOE's goal of improving our education system to meet the dire need of our students getting their right to an appropriate education? I have seen our public employees strive to improve a much needed educational system and one day less a month is going to hinder this goal. I am, of course, also concerned about a reduction on our salaries in a time of "economic crisis". We as "low paying public employees" already receive less than our counterparts on the Mainland for our services and we live in a much higher "cost of living state".

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

HB1719 is also a major concern to me. I chose to be a civil servant and work for less pay to contribute to "our children and future". I believed that I would be able to count on a safe retirement. This bill disregards my years of service and reduces my medical benefits until the Medicare retirement age, is irresponsible and wrong. Speaker Say is basically saying that he has no regards for us public employees.

Speaker Say is not thinking or acting in a thoughtful and efficient way to help in our "economic crisis". By forcing people into retirement before July 1, 2009 is not an appropriate way to solve the problem. I strongly encourage the committee to vote "no" on HB1719 and to send a strong message to Speaker Say that we can think of better ways to solve our problems than putting people at more financial risk.

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 ridiculous and putting people at risk with their health. This would also impact people's ability to work at a steady pace when they are needing their prescription medications to do so. Although the bill is only temporary, we are gambling with six years of prescription medication. This is a regressive bill when the rest of the nation is talking about improvements to our health care coverage.

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

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

Glenda Geprgens

GLenda Georgens MA LMHC, HI LHC  
ILC Program Director  
808-343-0842

yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** ANTONIE WURSTER [AVWALOHA4321@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 6:12 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Opposition to HB 1725

I oppose HB No. 1725, which would stop State contributions for prescription drug coverage for public employees for six years. This bill, if enacted, would go into effect on July 1, 2009, the same time that the EUTF health premium costs are projected to rise by 29 percent.

We know that some employees are already facing great financial challenges to keep a roof over their family's head, send the children to college, and pay medical bills. For those employees with chronic conditions or catastrophic illnesses, the shift from State payment to employee payment of the entire premium would result in deferred treatment, aggravation of symptoms and conditions, and for some, untimely death. Is this what you intend?

Please reconsider the impact of HB No. 1725.

yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 3:24 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Karen and I am a teacher at Pahoia Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Karen Kohagura

LATE

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**From:** Naomi Imai [sue55ko@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 2:41 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for Tues., Feb 17 RE: Union Benefits

Commitments made to existing State employees should be honored and changes negotiated with the Union.

DOING MORE WITH LESS HASN'T BEEN WORKING AND IT'S GOING TO GET WORSE.

When State programs are cut during a time when there is more unemployment, homeless individuals and families, increase in alcohol/substance abuse, and crime, State workers will be carrying increased caseloads. They will be pressured to meet Federal and State laws that have made direct service delivery time-consuming, overloaded with the collection of data to show "evidence-based" outcomes, and completing insurmountable amount of paperwork so the government can justify programs. Workers are pressed to provide service in a timely manner and/or document everything they do to show sufficient effort have been made to service the consumer and in a timely manner. They must educate and provide options to consumers so they have "consumer's choice." The laws emphasize human service/social workers need to provide "person-centered/family-centered" service; and deal with individual/families who work to become self-sufficient but more and more individuals are manipulating these laws to get what they want as a way to survive without demonstrating good intent/responsibility and threatening workers to take them through mediation and/or fair hearing. It's a major burnout for State workers who provide direct service.

Still workers are constantly trying to met all these demands bestowed on them by lawmakers in the attempt for lawmakers to please constituents from all sides, and leave front-line workers having to go through long drawn out mediations and fair hearings to be fiscally responsible for the State.

Too often laws establish requirements on programs without funding sources. Workers are told they must meet program goals regardless of staffing storages, long delays in replacing vacancies and increase in caseloads. However, supervisors often are told they cannot pay overtime. Almost always State positions are frozen during the Legislative session which cases more hardship for line workers since this is the time administrators request data for the legislators.

I left my position as a direct service provider because there was very little advocacy to improve the working condition. The mental health of many of these workers are weakening. The bills proposed by Rep. Calvin Say only enhanced the negative image that the public has about State workers, and passing these bills that take away security and benefits in such a drastic measure will push many worker in a worse state of mental health. There's good and bad State workers, but many have been working overtime with no pay, taking work home, etc. quietly for many, many years because it's the only way they can keep up with such large cases and over-demanding consumers who have lawmakers on their side.

My recommendation is that lawmakers take a broader look of the government's system. Assess programs not only by reports from heads of the program but by meeting the front-line workers, and start writing laws that support State workers in completing their job by serving consumers in a fair and efficient manner. You'll find a much more productive worker in that way. Consider what the private sector would do in this situation-possibly cutting back services 'cause you don't have the money to delivery the goods.

Look at the "in direct services" that are taking away from "direct services." For example, the cost of gathering data has grown enormously at your demand--how much are programs paying

for computers, computer software/programmers to develop new data for the Feds and State Legislators. What about the enormous amount of studies by academics with no work experience in the field to show "evidence-based" data to prove a program is justified. Or the amount of monies that go towards "administrative costs."

HB 1723 - Opposed. The state should negotiate with the union.

HB 1725 (RX) and 1727 (dental and vision). Opposed. Section 6 ....and shall be repealed on June 30, 2015; PROVIDED THAT THE DEFINITION OF "HEALTH BENEFITS PLAN" UNDER....HRS, IS REENACTED...." implies it "may" not be temporary. This is sneaky.

HB 1106 - Opposed. There doesn't need to be a law to negotiate furloughs with the union. Giving the governor the power to determine the need to furloughs appears to be a control issue for the future.

Many of the bills target workers nearing the retirement age. We shouldn't be targeted that way.

Naomi Imai



**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 1:44 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Beth and I am a teacher at Honowai Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Beth Luther

**From:** do\_not\_reply@members.hsta.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 2:26 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

**Testimony Message**

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Charlene and I am a teacher at Kalakaua Middle School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefit plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Charlene Watanabe

LATE

yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** jnfaus@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 12:47 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1715, 1723, 1725, 1726 & 1727

Relating to the above bills that will affect government employees' health and retirement benefits Labor Committee Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:30 a.m.

Chairperson Rhoads and members of the committee:

My name is Judy Faustino and I work for the Department of Agriculture and am an HGEA member. I strongly oppose H.B. Nos. 1723, 1725, 1726, 1727 and any other proposals that would take away the benefits that I have worked so hard for. I also oppose HB1715 which proposes to increase the age and service time requirement for new employees

I don't believe it's fair for the House to be looking at ways to balance the budget on the backs of public employees. I've made a career in public service knowing that my pay may not be as good as in the private sector but I could rely on retirement and health benefits for myself and my family. When I left the private sector, I took a cut in pay knowing that the benefits the State offered would make up for it.

>

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

>

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

Regarding HB1715, it should not apply to those already employed by the State. In my personal situation, I am eligible to retire at age 55 with 30 years of service. I honestly think 55 years old is a bit young to retire; however, 30 years of service should not be changed as I believe that is a long time to invest in one's retirement.

>

> Thank you for allowing me to comment on these very important issues.

>

> Judy Faustino

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Jennifer Carrell [jcarrell1981@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 11:34 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1715,18,19,26,25,26,27,37

To Whom it May Concern (and that should be everybody),

What ever happened to TRUST? Contracted Deals? TRUST? Respect? We elected you so that you could stab us in the back and take away all that was promised to us when we started Yesterday? 10 years ago? 20 years ago? If I had only known when I first started, I would've gone to work for GEICO, and earned so much more money than I am know But after working out side, I came here to City and County Gov't Employee because I didn't want to end up like my Mom who retired from the Feds and got nothing in medical, dental, drugs or vision, but at least she go medicare B.

This just came out of left field. How about you subject this policy to people hired after 7/1/09. See how many people want to be hired after that. Isn't this more of a contract negotiation w/Union people and making a law is just wrong.

I think you are being very unfair and disloyal to the thousands of people who have stayed w/City, County, and State gov't jobs even though the mainland calls to us w/more money, better benefits, but terrible retirement plans.

Some of us actually think we can survive after retirement. Please don't make it more difficult for us to stay. We're just people who need to make a living in these hard times just as you do.

One last question. Who pays for you medical? as a part time employee. And How are you going to be taken care of when you retire? I hear that Senators, and Representatives don't have to give money to Social Security because they pretty much are taken care by themselves. Is this so? There is noone out there to take care of me when I retire.

Please consider what you are doing before you do something really bad.

Mahalo  
Jennifer Carrell