

LATE

Testimony of:

**Blair Wulfert
Deputy Sheriff
Department of Public Safety**

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

DATE: Tuesday, February 17, 2009

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

PLACE: Conference Room 309

State Capitol

419 South Beretania St.

HB1723

HB 1715

HB 1726

HB1727

Good morning Chairman Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita and members of the committee. Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony on the bills in front of you. My name is Blair Wulfert and I have worked for the state of Hawai'i for 14 years. I am a sworn Deputy Sheriff for the State of Hawaii. A Deputy Sheriff is a State Police Officer who put himself/herself in harms way to arrest felons, enforce criminal statutes and protect the public. I **strongly oppose** HB 1723, 1715, 1726 and 1727. All of these bills make it seem as though the Hawaii State Legislature is willing to undercut the hardworking public employees and future employees of Hawai'i. It is unacceptable and I hope that this committee understands just how unjust these bills truly are.

The Hawaii State Legislature is attempting to balance the State budget on the backs of the State employees by reducing the health benefits and passing on the cost to the employees. This equates to "pay cut," for States Employees and this does not even include the possible take-a way's that is expected from the Executive Branch, through collective bargaining, and the probable rate increase proposed by HMSA. This is not sharing the pain, this is suffering the serious wounds that will be imposed on not just state employees, but our families who depend on us.

Today I would like to specifically comment on HB 1715. This bill increases the minimum age and length of service for an unreduced service retirement allowance for new employees. As civil servants, we do not do this job because of the pay. We do this job because we care about our community. We care enough to even care about the next generation of public workers. It is hard enough to find good qualified people to work for the state. If we make it so that we offer less than industry standard pay as well a weak package of benefits and retirement plan, we will be scraping the bottom of the barrel of applicants. We cannot make it so that state work is the last choice for incoming recruits. We have also seen in the past that the same employees, in the same bargaining unit, doing the same job that has two different sets benefits is in violation of labor standards. These benefits were later re-instated.

There are several alternatives to reducing the cost of government, balancing the budget, and being fiscally responsible, without reducing services and the responsibility of the State Government. I implore the legislative branch to further explore, educate, and ponder to make government more efficient and reduce needless waste.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1463, AFL-CIO
2305 S. BERETANIA ST., RM. 202, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826-1493
TELEPHONE (808) 949-1566 FAX: (808) 952-6003
WEBSITE: www.hawaiifirefighters.org

LATE

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature
House of Representatives
Committees on Labor and Public Employment
February 17, 2009

Testimony by
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association

H.B. No. 1727 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

My name is Robert H. Lee and I am the President of the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO and also an active-duty fire captain with the Honolulu Fire Department. On behalf of the 1,800 active and 1,000 retired professional fire fighters throughout the State, the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association strongly opposes H.B. No. 1727.

H.B. No. 1727 makes dental and vision benefit plans optional and all premium costs to be paid by the public employee. Dental and vision care is integral to good overall health. This will have a negative effect on the welfare of the public employees.

HFFA strongly opposes H.B. No. 1727. Again, we urge the Committee to reconsider these draconian public policy changes.

LATE

February 17, 2009

HOUSE LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEE COMMITTEE

Karl Rhoads, Chair

Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

My name is Shirlene Miyashiro. I work for the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources, Bureau of Conveyances and am a member of HGEA.

I am a dedicated, faithful and hard working public servant since April 1, 1969 to the present. Come this April 1st, I will have 40 years of service with 2,138 hours Sick Leave and 585 hours of Vacation Leave.

It has been 18 years since I became a widower. I have 2 grown adult children and 1 grandson. Like everyone, I too have some financial and health issues. I have not collected Widow's Benefit from Social Security. I have been working very hard to make ends meet on my own.

In 1994, I had open heart surgery to repair my metal valve.

In 1998, I had bunion and dislocated 2nd toe surgery on my right foot. Practically every toe was worked on except one.


In 2008, I had breast cancer surgery, 4 treatments of Chemo Therapy and 33 treatment of Radiation. Currently, I am experiencing pain in my right shoulder and upper arm.

Last January 31st I celebrated my 61st Birthday. I as planning on retiring at age 62 but with a number of bills introduced this Legislative session against public employees benefits to balance the budget which I strongly feel is very wrong which is causing me to panic and to initiate retirement procedures.

I am here to voice my opposition and I am asking you for your support in opposing the following House Bills: HB 1106, 1108, 1715, 1718, 1719, 1720, 1721, 1722 1723, 1725, 1726 and 1727.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.


SHIRLENE MIYASHIRO
91-1015 Kumulipo Street
Kapolei, HI 97807

cc: Senator Mike Gabbard, Room 201
Representative Sharon Har, Room 438

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: KKaahaaina@dhs.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:48 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1106, HB1718, HB 1719, HB 1723, HB 1725, HB 1726, HB 1727

Hi,

I am a social worker for the DHS. I'm also a voter, a taxpayer, a home owner, and a single mom. My child goes to a public school. I spend money everyday at local businesses to buy food, clothing, gas and other goods and services, such as medical services, that help keep Hawaii's economy going. And I don't believe it's fair for the legislature to be looking at public employees as a way to help balance the budget.

I have worked for the State for almost 19 years. My job has been essential to the health and welfare of many people who, through this department's services, have become more stable and capable adults and children. However, my job has become increasingly challenging, especially over the last few years, and now that necessary job positions are frozen yet demand for services continues to steadily rise it means that my workload also continues to rise.

I became a State social worker knowing that my pay would not be as high compared to working for a private agency. However, I wanted to work with one of the neediest populations in the state. I've always felt that the health, retirement, and life insurance benefits helped "make up" to me and my family for the "shortfall" in pay. But now the threat of losing what I believe are the well-earned benefits of this job looms large. I believe that I and many State workers like me have devoted our time, some of which we will never be compensated for, and effort in trying to do a good job and to help others and we do not deserve this.

On behalf of myself and my family I ask that the legislature look for other ways to balance the budget. Raising the excise tax may be a way for everyone to contribute and share the responsibility during these financially difficult times. The burden should not be on the public sector, especially since we make up only a limited amount of the workforce. I appreciate your efforts and hope that you will find solutions that are fair to all concerned.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kenwyn Kaahaaina

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yamashita3-Chelsea

From: Marti Buckner [Marti.Buckner@co.maui.hi.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:10 AM
To: LABtestimony

February 17, 2009

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 1723 - Relating to Reducing Employer Contribution to Health Benefits
House Bill 1725 - Relating to Halting the Drug Coverage Under EUTF
House Bill 1726 Relating to Curtailing EUTF Payment for Life Insurance Benefits
House Bill 1727 Relating to Prohibiting Provision of Dental/Vision Coverage

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

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

In passing legislation such as this, you will also certainly lose the trust and future votes of the people you employ and who serve your communities.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marti Buckner
Water Resources Planner
County of Maui

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: Joanne_Amaki/WAIKIKIE/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:59 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725, 1723, 1715, 1726, 1727

I am opposed to the passage of HB 1725, 1723, 1715, 1726 and 1727. Please do not pass these bills. We need the benefits these bills provide. There are a number of workers who are close to retirement and will be negatively impacted if these bills pass. In addition, it will make workers rethink working for the state government in the future. Our pensions do not include enough money to pay for these take aways. I fear that we will have to apply for government assistance or welfare when we retire. I will not be able to attend today's hearings regarding these bills but I hope that you will consider other options to balance our state budget. Thank you for your assistance.

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:02 AM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: 4kisha@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for HB1727 on 2/17/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/17/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1727

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Susan S Yamashita
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: 4kisha@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/17/2009

Comments:

LATE

February 17, 2009

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 1725 Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF
House Bill 1723 Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable
House Bill 1715 Increase, for new employees, the age and service time requirement to retire
House Bill 1726 Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits
House Bill 1727 Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Cindy Kagoshima
County of Maui

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: Holly Nishimitsu [hollynis@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:15 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725 and 1727

TO: LABtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

FROM: Holly Nishimitsu

SUBJECT: HB 1725 and 1727 – RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

My name is Holly Nishimitsu and I am a Speech-Language Pathologist at Kapa'a Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 and 1727 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF prescription drug coverage and dental and vision coverage for all state and county employees-beneficiaries.

If these bills should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire before July 1, 2009 since having to shoulder the costs of such coverage would be prohibitive.

Despite having been a public servant for over thirty years, I had intended on continuing to work at my profession, which is already a shortage category. The passage of said bills would result in my retirement before July 1, 2009 as well as numerous other experienced Speech-Language Pathologists, leading to a greater shortage of qualified personnel and severely impacting the services that are delivered to our students with communication impairments.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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yamashita3-Chelsea

From: Kerry Holokai [kholokai@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:02 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: Testimony 02-17-2009

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Kerry Holokai and a member of HGEA, Bargaining Unit 03. I live in Ha'iku, Maui.

As a public employee for 16 years, I am truly disturbed by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically:

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.

Many government employees make the decision to work at lower pay in order to obtain medical, dental, and vision benefits. This is the only way so many of us are able to afford the outrageous medical costs. By choosing to accept lower wages, we then struggle to live paycheck to paycheck.

In all fairness, if you decrease benefits, you should then rightfully increase the salaries of all public employees accordingly. With the current cost of living, ever-rising health costs, inflation, insurance, taxes, etc., we will most likely still struggle, but that's the way life is in Hawai'i for many of us.

It seems that public employees are usually the target and often the ones to blame for our State's problems. Public employees are not the problem.

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

Mahalo

From: Troy Ludwick [tludwick@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:34 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: Opposition to: HB1106, HB 1723, HB 1725, HB 1726, HB 1727

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

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

I provided written testimony again HB 1106 on 2/13/09. Here is the content of that testimony:

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

Action on HB 1106 was deferred, and it is my understanding that it may be voted on today. I ask again that you vote against HB 1106.

I also provided testimony again HB 1725 on 2/13/09, consisting of the following:

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

HB 1727 similarly increases state employees' costs for dental and vision coverage through June 30, 2015. I again contend that a fairer approach, if such a measure were to be implemented, would be to have the measure enacted on a year to year basis and rescinded when the economy improves. To enact HB 1725 and HB 1727 as they currently exist would be akin to making public employees bear the burden of addressing current economic conditions over a period of time that will likely far exceed the current troubles with the economy. Please vote against HB 1725 and HB 1727, or failing that, please amend these measures so that they are in effect only until the economy improves.

HB 1723 and HB 1726 go even further by attempting to permanently reduce benefits by increasing health care and life insurance premiums for state workers. I believe that employer contributions to health care premiums should continue to be negotiable and that any curtailment of life insurance benefits should be temporary. If such measures are designed to deal with the current economy, then they ought not to be enacted permanently. Please vote against HB 1723 and HB 1726.

Lastly, taken collectively this slate of bills would represent a dramatic reduction of benefits and increase of costs for state workers, all of whom are citizens already struggling to make ends meet in these trying times. I believe they would serve as a catalyst to drain the state of its best talent, many of whom would surely be drawn to more attractive benefit plans in the private sector. These reductions would also force further cutbacks in

spending by state workers, and this would serve to further depress economic conditions and harm local businesses. Please do not hold state workers disproportionately accountable for the current economic conditions by unduly penalizing them in tough times. Please vote 'no' on all of these measures.

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: J R [jrgons@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:09 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: Strong Opposition to HB 1715, 1723, 1725, 1726, 1727

I'm very disappointed to see that these bills have been introduced and are currently being considered. I, as well as many others in the Honolulu Police Department, have dedicated my life to serve the community. Aside from wanting to serve the communities that we grew up in, I joined the department because of the security of the benefits offered. Benefits both while working as well as benefits when retired. Through out my 12 years of service, 13 in June, I had been come at with a knife, spit on numerous times, assaulted, harassed, had my family threatened, and suffered serious bodily injury. These are just a few incidents that are just off of the top of my head. There are many other officers out there that have experienced this and more. I had co-workers that have been shot, been run over by a car (intentionally), and die. All as a result of their dedication to the job. It is disheartening to hear that with all of the sacrifices that we do for our community, that we love dearly, we may be left to fend for ourselves in the time of our lives when we need our benefits the most. Our benefits should be like a sign of gratitude for our years of dedicated service and sacrifice. We and our spouses will be dramatically affected from this. This was part of the deal that we entered into when applying for this job. Everything that we stand to lose has been earned, by every officer, through their blood, sweat, and tears.

I ask that you take into consideration the things that I have said. Please don't take away benefits from police officers. Keeping our benefits in tact would be the best way to say thank you, and to show them gratitude, for their years of dedicated service. Our society depends on us for help and security, please don't turn your back on us when we need it.

Thank you for the oportunity to voice my opinion.

Joel Gonsalves
(Registered Voter)

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yamashita3-Chelsea

From: Karen Kagawa [kagawak@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:57 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723, HB 1715, HB 1726, and HB 1727 / Hearing Date: February 17, 2009, 8:30 a.m.

Re: HB 1723, HB 1715, HB 1726, and HB 1727
Hearing Date: February 17, 2009, 8:30 a.m.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Karen Kagawa, and I have been a State employee since 1985. I currently work for the Department of Defense, Hawaii Army National Guard.

I am asking you to please vote "no" on the following bills: HB 1723, HB 1715, HB 1726, and HB 1727. I've been with the State through the years with no raises and payroll lags, in hopes of one day receiving decent retirement and health benefits. I am devastated and frightened by the thought that these benefits I have been working for all these years could be taken away. Please don't diminish my entire career with the State. I do not want to become a burden to the State in my later years if I cannot rely on retirement and health benefits to live an independent life.

As a taxpayer, and someone who is already struggling to make ends meet, I ask you to vote "no" on HB 1723, HB 1715, HB 1726, and HB 1727. There are fairer ways to share the burden of addressing this revenue problem we are facing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Karen Kagawa

February 17, 2009

LATE

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

I'm writing to you to voice my opposition of the following bills:

House Bill No. 1723- Related to Public Employees
House Bill No. 1715- Related to Retirement
House Bill No. 1726- Related to the Health Fund
House Bill No. 1727- Related to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits
Trust Fund

By eliminating benefits from public employees, it will create a mass retirement of employees wishing to maintain retirement health benefits. I worked in the retail industry for over twenty years and in the 1980's-90's the retail industry took a hit from competition which caused the local businesses to cut back on benefits and salaries. For those reasons, I chose to change my career to work for the county since they had the best retirement and benefits. With the introduction of these bills, there is no incentive for employees to remain with the State or County governments with the elimination of these benefits.

By creating such a situation, public safety would be a major concern due to the anticipation of a mass exodus of public employees seeking to retire early in order to retain all of the benefits that were promised when they were hired. As jobs would not be immediately filled or certain jobs would have to be eliminated, there will be an urgent need for remaining employees to fill these vacancies through overtime work or emergency callback of experienced employees to maintain public service.

This would be a lose-lose situation with all the monies being paid out.

For this reason, I am voicing my opposition to the proposed house bills. The overall effect would create problems larger than can be fathomed as it would cause a major disruption to State and County service on all islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Dennis G. LEE
Maui Police Department

yamashita2 - Kristen

From: Lynne H Ogata [logata@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 2:54 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: unfair, outrageous, mean

I totally oppose to HB1725, HB1723, HB1715, HB1726, **HB1727!** I have worked for ridiculously low pay for several years just because I felt that the retirement benefits was worth the sacrifice. And now at age 57 you are taking this away?? What about you legislators? Didn't you just give yourselves a pay increase last year? Where is that money coming from?? If you vote for these bills, I can guarantee that this will be your last term. There are many civil servants who have long memories, if you want to remain in office listen to your constituents.

yamashita2 - Kristen

From: Ashley Nishihara [akn002@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 1:49 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: From A Concerned State Worker

LATE

Dear Whomever It May Concern,
I'd like to oppose the passing of the following bills:

HB 1106: Furloughing employees.
HB 1718: Halts reimbursement for Medicare B for employee retiring after 12/31/09.
HB 1719: Stops employer contribution for health benefits for those retiring after 7/1/09.
HB 1723: Limits employers contributions to 55% and makes it non-negotiable.
HB 1725: Halts drug coverage under EUTF.
HB 1726: Curtails EUTF payment for life insurance benefits.
HB 1727: Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage.

My name is Lynda Nishihara. Here is my address:

1231 Ala Aupaka Place
Honolulu, HI 96818

I look forward to receiving your response.

yamashita2 - Kristen

From: Peter Vanderpoel [Peter.Vanderpoel@co.maui.hi.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 1:36 PM
To: LABtestimony; Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino; Rep. Karen Awana; Rep. Faye Hanohano; Rep. Gilbert Keith-Agaran; Rep. Marilyn Lee; Rep. Mark Nakashima; Rep. Kymberly Pine; Rep. Karl Rhoads; Rep. Scott Saiki; Rep. Joseph Souki; Rep. Roy Takumi; Rep. Kyle Yamashita
Subject: House Bill 1725 Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF; House Bill 1723 Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non- negotiable; House Bill 1715 Increase, for new employees, the age and service time requirement to retire; House Bill 1726 Cu...
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 1725 Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF
 House Bill 1723 Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non- negotiable House Bill 1715 Increase, for new employees, the age and service time requirement to retire House Bill 1726 Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits House Bill 1727 Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage

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

Public employees are truly dedicated and many have foregone higher salaries because they believe in civil service and trusted the promise that they would eventually benefit from a well managed and attractive retirement system. To now propose making them the scapegoat of our financial and economic woes and stripping them of their health benefits and their retirement benefits is simply unconscionable. You will certainly lose the trust of the people you employ and who serve your communities.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Peter K. Vanderpoel

Peter K. Vanderpoel
 Fire Fighter II
 Rescue 10/ B watch

(808)270-7911 (wk)
(808)870-4938 (cell)

- - - - -
County of Maui.

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We the undersigned, oppose the following bills:

February 12, 2009

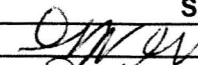
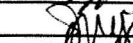

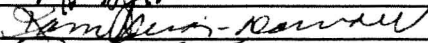
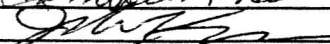
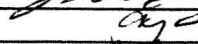
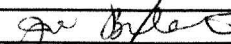

LATE

- 1) HB1106 - Furloughing employees
- 2) HB1718 - Halt reimbursement for Medicare part B premiums for employees retiring after 12/31/09
- 3) HB1719 - Stop employer contributions for those retiring after 7/1/09
- 4) HB1725 - Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF
- 5) HB1723 - Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable
- 6) HB1726 - Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits
- 7) HB1727 - Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage
- 8) HB1737 - Excludes certain forms of pay in computing compensation for retirement purposes

For the following reasons:

- 1) The majority of us came to work for the State of Hawaii for its benefits, not the pay.
- 2) It's unfair to cut our benefits by passing a law. It should be negotiated by our Union and agreed upon with our members.
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GREGORY PETERSEN	
Jacqueline Wong	
Michelle Agon	
Karon Verman-Saknall	
John Kapanae	
Cindy Tanaka	
JODI BULATAO	
Dennis Dahl	

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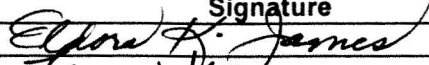
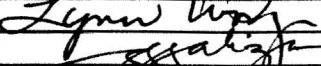
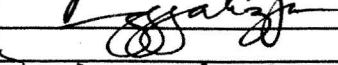
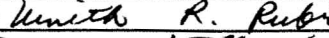

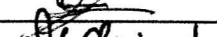
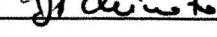
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Name	Signature
ELDORA K. JAMES	
Lynn Wang	
JERRY GALICIA	
Nineth R Rubio	
BRIAN WATANABE	
Edwino Yee	
Jack Onimoto	

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Name	Signature
Wendell Oshiko	Wendell Oshiko
NATILYN RASALAN	Natelyn R.
Linda Makua-Dudoit	Linda Makua-Dudoit
Glenn Lee	Glenn Lee
Lynn Nakamura	Lynn Nakamura
Lorraine Tanuvasa	Lorraine Tanuvasa
Jan Kim	Jan A. Kim
Paulette AKUNG	Paulette Akung
Susan Gost	Susan Gost
Kevin Okuna	Kevin Okuna
DAWN ARASATO	Dawn Arasato
Joyce Mashumura	Joyce Mashumura
Barbara Toledo	Barbara Toledo
Tinaida Bryan	Tinaida Bryan

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Alex So	
Shirley Lee	
Ada Lam	
Louise K. Burns	
Jeffery Hara	
Norene Torikawa	
Cathleen H. Vinkasa	

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Erwen Kostino	Erwen Kostino
Julia English	Julia English
Vera Yamasaki	Vera Yamasaki
Chanice Sufat	Chanice Sufat
Koren Wakatsuki	Koren Wakatsuki
Ray-Lynn Kawasaka	Ray-Lynn Kawasaka
Kristie Kwon	Kristie Kwon
Jodi Polendey	Jodi Polendey
Maile Horikawa	Maile Horikawa
Kim Fleming	Kim Fleming
Sheri-Lynn Tateyama	Sheri-Lynn Tateyama
Zee Higa	Zee Higa
Lana Kim	Lana Kim
Nancy Arakaki	Nancy Arakaki
Laureen Castro	Laureen Castro
Susan Hirokane	Susan Hirokane
Grace Takai	Grace Takai
Kenneth Ito	Kenneth Ito
Frances Kaneshiro	Frances Kaneshiro
Sandi Yamagata	Sandi Yamagata
Ten Sakamashi	Ten Sakamashi
Melanie Mousel	Melanie Mousel
Renee R. Yamada	Renee R. Yamada
Wade Okumura	Wade Okumura
Kristina Lum	Kristina M. Lum
Stanley Pan	Stanley Pan
SAMSON BELLISLE	Samson Bellisle
Joy Green	Joy Green
Glenn Kanitake	Glenn Kanitake

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Leona Kaapuni	Leona Kaapuni
Constance Suiizu	Constance Suiizu
Winnie HAPA	Winnie HAPA
Stuart Uyeda	Stuart Uyeda
Linda Masuoka	Linda Masuoka
Alan Shimono	Alan Shimono
Jason Kanda	Jason Kanda
Ethel Enos	Ethel Enos
Leslie Honda	Leslie Honda
Nolan Yonekura	Nolan Yonekura
Lyette Maruo	Lyette Maruo
Ana Che	Ana Che
Tracey-Lynn Pa	Tracey-Lynn Pa
Lino Gempisao	Lino Gempisao
MORRIS TEE	MORRIS TEE
Sandra Malcom	Sandra Malcom

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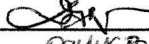
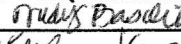
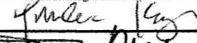
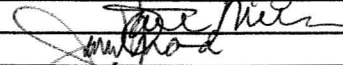
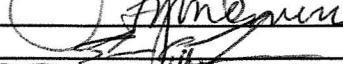
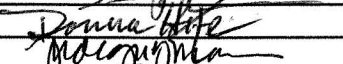
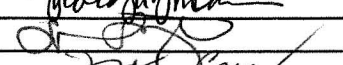
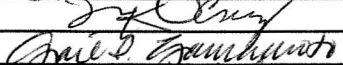
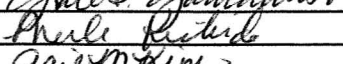
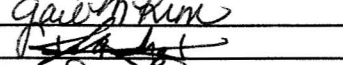

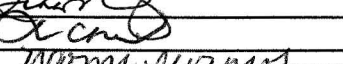

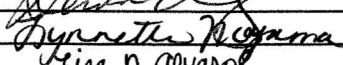
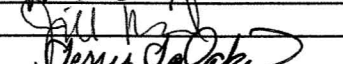
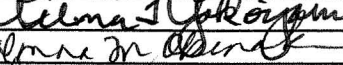
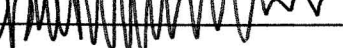

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Trisha T. Kaya	
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JEAN GERARD	
WANNY TAMONAN	
LEONOR YAMAMOTO	
EDWARD LEO	
Donna Hite	
TIFFINNY DEGUZMAN	
Norma Miyata	
LOVINA K. CAUZY	
Chil Yamamoto	
Merle Kishida	
qa'il Kim	
Garett MIGHTA	
Kathryn Opatal	
Jane Cheong	
WISU Cheng	
Naomi Y. Iwamoto	
MISE ADUAGI	
Lynnette Noyama	
Lisa Alvaro	
Zerlina Pangolinan	
Jill Nadi	
Terry Tadaki	
Adick Tanjivan	
VELMA T. YOKOYAMA	
Donna OKINAKA	
Rowena Coronel	
KIM YASUMURA	

