

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



DARWIN L.D. CHING
DIRECTOR

COLLEEN Y. LaCLAIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor
Phone: (808) 586-8842 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

April 8, 2009

To: The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: April 8, 2009

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

From: Darwin L.D. Ching, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

S.B. 1664 S.D. 2 H.D. 1 - Relating to Employment Security

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

S.B. 1664 S.D. 2, H.D. 1 proposes to amend Chapter 383, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) to add definitions and claimants' requirements relating to partial unemployment for eligibility, claims filing, and registration, and the employers' reporting requirements. This measure basically seeks to codify what is already contained in our administrative rules for a temporary period, from 7/1/09 through 6/30/12.

II. CURRENT LAW

Currently, the requirements for partial claims are contained in the Department's administrative rules, Chapter 5, Title 12.

1. §12-5-1 on definitions.
2. §12-5-31 on registration.
3. §12-5-81 on claims filing.
4. §12-5-17 on employer reporting.

III. SENATE/HOUSE BILL

The Department does not oppose this measure regarding partial claims filing as the proposed provisions are already being applied to partial claims as prescribed in our administrative rules. The only difference to our current practice is the extension of partial unemployment from four (4) to eight (8) weeks, which our existing rule permits, and we have applied in numerous circumstances to allow employers the flexibility to maintain their staff.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA

Executive Director

Tel: 808.543.0011

Fax: 808.528.0922

NORA A. NOMURA

Deputy Executive Director

Tel: 808.543.0003

Fax: 808.528.0922

DEREK M. MIZUNO

Deputy Executive Director

Tel: 808.543.0055

Fax: 808.523.6879

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Finance

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
April 8, 2009

S.B. 1664, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 – RELATING
TO EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

The Hawaii Government Employees Association strongly supports S.B. 1664, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 which adds definitions relating to partial unemployment and sets out requirements for claimants' eligibility, registration and employers' reporting for partial unemployment.

The proposal to codify implementation of the partial unemployment system and extend the duration of employees' eligibility for unemployment benefits under partial unemployment is especially important as Hawaii's unemployment rate has reached its highest point in 26 years and has more than doubled since January 2008. We urge passage of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 1664, S.D. 2, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora A. Nomura

Deputy Executive Director