

TESTIMONY BY DAVID SHIMABUKURO
ADMINISTRATOR, EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2919

RELATING TO THE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

FEBRUARY 2, 2010

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

H.B. 2919 amends the definition of "sewer worker" for the purposes of the Employees' Retirement System to include sewer maintenance working supervisors, wastewater collection system inspection supervisors, wastewater collection system district supervisors, and wastewater collection system field services supervisors.

This Bill will enable employees in these positions to take early retirement without reduction for age as long as the member has at least 25 years of credited service prior to age 55.

The ERS Legislative and Administrative Committee opposes this Bill since it will afford these members an early retirement benefit that will increase the ERS' \$6.2 billion unfunded actuarial accrued liability.

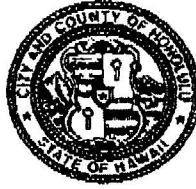
This Bill is also contrary to the provisions of Act 256, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, which placed a moratorium on benefit enhancements until January 2, 2011.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



NOEL T. ONO
ACTING DIRECTOR

February 1, 2010

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 2919
Relating to the Employee's Retirement System

The City and County of Honolulu's Department of Human Resources supports
HB No. 2919, relating to the Employee's Retirement System.

HB 2919 would change the definition of "sewer worker" to include sewer maintenance working supervisors, wastewater collection system inspection supervisors, wastewater collection system district supervisors, and wastewater collection system field services supervisors. It also allows for coverage of substantially similar classifications under different class titles so that the definition does not need to be amended every time a different title is created or amended.

As these positions supervise employees covered by the "sewer worker" definition and come from the same ranks, coverage under the same twenty-five year retirement benefit is fair and appropriate.

We request your support of HB 2919, relating to the Employee's Retirement System, to provide retirement benefits to positions in the affected classes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Noel T. Ono".

Noel T. Ono
Acting Director

Rep.Karl Rhoades, Chair
And the committee on Labor and Public Employment
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu,Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoades and Members:

Subject: House Bill 2919, Relating to the employees Retirement System

My name is Florendo Juan Jr.AKA Fuji.I support HB 2919,relating to the Employees Retirement System.

As an employee of the City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services Collection System maintenance Division for the past 29 years I was covered under section 88-21 ,HRS: Until my promotion to Wastewater Field Services Supervisor. back in 2003.When I took this promotion I was no longer covered under 88-21 HRS although I continued to come in contact with the same situations on the field as my fellow employees who are covered under 88-21 HRS.In fact, this past Sunday I was working side by side with a crew to stop a manhole from overflowing in Palolo Valley.

I often look at this situation as if a Rookie who enters the Police Department and is covered under their 25 year service benefit but, looses it when he gets promoted to a higher rank such as a Major,he would still face the same situations he did as a rookie while in the field.

I believe that these positions were not even created when the bill passed years ago. I respectfully ask that you support HB 2919 and to treat all Collection System Maintenance employees who need to work out in the field as Sewer Workers.

Sincerely,

Florendo Juan Jr. AKA Fuji
Field Services Supervisor.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

LATE

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

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
February 2, 2010

H.B. 2919 – RELATING TO
THE EMPLOYEES'
RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The Hawaii Government Employees' Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 2919, which expands the definition of "sewer worker" under Section 88-21, HRS, to include certain bargaining unit 02 classes that are currently excluded from enhanced retirement benefits. The expanded definition includes sewer maintenance working supervisors, wastewater collection system inspection supervisors, wastewater collection district supervisors and wastewater collection system field services supervisors. These employees are represented by the HGEA.

These employee classes were created after the last amendment to Section 88-21, HRS, although they are exposed to many of the same hazards as those already included in this statute. Correcting this inequity is important and the employees deserve to be covered by Section 88-21, HRS.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 2919.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director

