

TESTIMONY

SB2949

LATE

Date: 02/09/2010

Committee: Senate Labor

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn Matayoshi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2949 RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.

Purpose of Bill: Clarifies that furloughs are a subject to collective bargaining.

Department's Position: **The Department opposes this bill.** Matters pertaining to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment are already subject to collective bargaining pursuant to Chapter 89 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. While the decision as to whether furloughs should be imposed rests with the employer, the procedures concerning implementation are subject to negotiations. Therefore, to require, through legislation, negotiation between the employer and the exclusive representative concerning the decision as to whether to impose furloughs would negatively impact the Department of Education.

First, if budget issues require the department to make cuts, the parties would have to negotiate and reach agreement on not only the need for furloughs but also the procedures to implement.

Second, if agreement cannot be reached, reductions in force would most likely occur. Thereafter, due to the reductions in force, increased class size may result.