

LATE

House of Representatives
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Regular Session of 2011
Committee on Labor and Public Employment

February 11, 2011

H.B. 1041 – RELATING TO
THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION
HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Yamashita, and members of the Committee on Labor and Public Employment:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong opposition of the original language in H.B. 1041**. I prefer and support H.B. 1041, H.D. 1., which would eliminate the Medicare Part B reimbursements for prospective employees, and would not affect current retirees and employees already in the system.

My name is Donna Tamashiro and I worked as a secretary and clerk stenographer, respectively, for the Board of Education and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for a total of 35 years. As a government employee, I dedicated my career to public service. I chose to work for less pay than my private-sector counterparts for ensured health benefits upon retirement. By eliminating the Medicare Part B reimbursements, I will be forced to pay an additional \$1,385 per year. Including my spouse, our household would expend approximately \$2,770 annually on doctor's fees and medical expenses. I am saddened to say that my family cannot afford this additional financial burden. It deeply troubles me that the Legislature is considering changing my benefits. Retirement promises that were made upon accepting employment 35 years ago should not be broken today.

I urge passage of H.B. 1041, H.D. 1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Tamashiro

House of Representatives
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
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My name is Dorothy Shimomura and I worked as a Court Clerk for the State Judiciary for a total of 18 years. As a government employee, I dedicated my career to public service. I chose to work for less pay than my private-sector counterparts for ensured health benefits upon retirement. By eliminating the Medicare Part B reimbursements, I will be forced to pay an additional \$1,385 per year. I am saddened to say that I cannot afford this additional financial burden. It deeply troubles me that the Legislature is considering changing my benefits. Retirement promises that were made upon accepting employment 18 years ago should not be broken today.

I urge passage of H.B. 1041, H.D. 1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,


Dorothy Shimomura

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 8:36 AM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: bmauigirl2000@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1041 on 2/11/2011 9:10:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/11/2011 9:10:00 AM HB1041

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Barbara A Tanner
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: bmauigirl2000@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/11/2011

Comments:
175 Ehilani Street
Makawao, HI 96768
February 11, 2011

Re: HB1041
RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND.
Report Title: Hawaii Employer Union Health Benefits Trust Fund; Medicare Part B Reimbursements
Description: To eliminate Medicare Part B reimbursements for retired employee beneficiaries and the spouses of employee beneficiaries who are retired employees.

Committee: LAB
Room: 309
Hearing Date: 2/11/2011 9:10:00 AM

Dear Honorable Members of the House:
I am writing to oppose this measure. It is not fair to tax the elderly who live on fixed incomes. It is not fair to change health benefit rules in the middle of our retirement.

Please defeat this measure.

Barbara Tanner, MS, APRN
Retired State employee
Department of Health
808-572-7505
bmauigirl2000@yahoo.com