

HB 2494,HD1

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG
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STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2494, H.D. 1

March 14, 2012

RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING COST ITEMS

House Bill No. 2494, H.D. 1, establishes public employer contribution amounts for plan years 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 for Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) premiums for public officers and employees pursuant to Section 89-11(g), HRS, due to an impasse in negotiations with the exclusive representative of bargaining unit 10 (institutional workers).

Under the binding arbitration provisions of Chapter 89, HRS, Collective Bargaining in Public Employment, public employer contributions for EUTF benefits are not determined by an arbitration panel. Contributions are determined by either: 1) an agreement reached separate from the arbitration decision; or 2) if no agreement has been reached within ten working days after the arbitration decision has been issued, then the public employers and the respective union each submits its recommendations for contributions directly to the Legislature for legislative determination and enactment.

Currently, the public employers and the United Public Workers (UPW), the union representing bargaining unit 10, are at impasse. An arbitration hearing has been scheduled for July 17 to July 25, 2012, and it is anticipated that no agreement will be reached on EUTF contributions. Since this will be well after the end of this session, this issue will likely be presented again to the Legislature next session.