

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG
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STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2495, H.D. 1

March 28, 2012

RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING COST ITEMS

House Bill No. 2495, 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 11 (firefighters).

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 Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, the union representing bargaining unit 11, are at impasse and an arbitration hearing has not yet been scheduled. It is anticipated that no agreement will be reached on EUTF contributions. Since any arbitration hearing will be held after the end of this session, this issue will likely be presented again to the Legislature next session.