

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

BRIAN SCHATZ
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1530
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FREDERICK D. PABLO
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

RANDOLF L. M. BALDEMOR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

LATE

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
REGARDING HB 793, PROPOSED SD1
RELATING TO TAXATION**

TESTIFIER: FREDERICK D. PABLO, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION (OR
DESIGNEE)
COMMITTEE: WAM
DATE: APRIL 6, 2011
TIME: 9:30AM
POSITION: COMMENTS

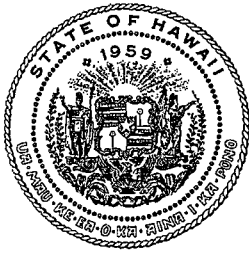
This measure contains several parts. Part II of this bill temporarily suspends certain general excise and use tax exemptions from January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015. Part IV of this bill doubles the standard deductions under the State income tax. Part V doubles the tax credit for household and dependent care services necessary for gainful employment. Part VI doubles the income tax credit for low-income household renters. Part VII doubles the refundable food/excise tax credit. Part VIII increases the capital goods excise tax credit, increases the general excise tax, increases the use tax, and increases the public services company tax.

The Department offers the following comments.

TECHNICAL ERROR – In Part II of the bill, specifically in Section 3 and Section 4, in subsection (b) of sections 237- and 238- respectively, the Department suggests amending the rate from four per cent to five per cent. The Department would have difficulty administering a different general excise rates for the previously exempt activities and all other activities.

APPROPRIATION – Regarding Part IX of this bill, the Department is in the process of calculating the resources necessary to implement the changes proposed in this measure.

REVENUE IMPACT – Attached is a chart summarizing the revenue impact of the bill.



Hawai'i Tourism Authority

Hawai'i Convention Center, 1801 Kalākāua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
Website: www.hawaiitourismauthority.org

Telephone: (808) 973-2255
Fax: (808) 973-2253

LATE

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor

MIKE MCCARTNEY
President and
Chief Executive Officer

Testimony of
Mike McCartney
President and Chief Executive Officer
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
on

H.B. 793, Proposed S.D. 1
Relating to Taxation

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, April 6, 2011
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) provides the following cautionary comment on paragraph (5) in the new section 237- in SECTION 3 of the proposed, S.D. 1, which proposes to amend chapter 237, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, by proposing to temporarily suspend the exemption from the general excise tax amounts received by organizations from convention, conference, or tradeshow registration fees, fees for convention, conference, or tradeshow exhibit or display spaces, and fees for advertising and promotion at the convention, conference, or tradeshow in brochures.

Organizations, such as the American Dental Association and the American Academy of Neurology, which have booked conventions at the Hawaii Convention Center, derive much of their operating revenue from the fees received from registration, sponsors, and exhibitors. Any reduction in the revenue from these fees will cause financial stress for those organizations. Both organizations indicated that imposing a tax on the sale of display spaces would have affected their decision to hold their event in Hawaii.

The American Academy of Neurology (AAN) was an event attended by 7,500 members. They were told by the Tax Department that they had to pay \$60,000 in GET on booth sales. The AAN generated \$25.3 million in visitor spending and \$2.1 million in tax revenues. In 2003, if they had known that they had to pay the GET on booth sales, they would not have booked their event in Hawaii.

If the American Dental Association was Charged the GET:

Booths	1,000
Cost/Booth	\$2,500.00
Total Revenues	\$2,500,000.00
GET (if required to pay)	\$104,250.00
Delegates	24,000
Room Nights	221,040
Visitor Spending	\$85,260,154.00
Tax Revenue Generated	\$10,992,321.00

If the American Dental Association was charged the GET on booth sales, the State would have lost \$85 million in visitor spending and \$10.9 million in tax revenues.

In 2009 and 2010, there were 26 events at the Hawaii Convention Center that sold displays. In the worst case scenario, all of those events would have been lost to another facility and Hawaii would have lost:

Total number of events that sold displays	26
Total number of delegates for all events	118,355
Total room nights	1,023,204
Total visitor spending	\$420,456,894.00
Tax Revenue Generated	\$54,208,174.00

While the GET can be added on to the fees for sponsors and exhibitors, it will significantly impact the sale of display spaces, because Hawaii is already a more costly destination for exhibitors, with the higher costs of shipping displays and equipment to Hawaii.

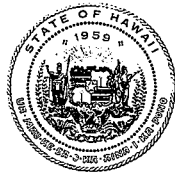
A poll by SMG, which operates the Hawaii Convention Center, revealed only one minor location that imposed a similar tax, which immediately lost a major event when it was imposed. The poll of its industry partners indicates that imposing this additional cost would severely damage Hawaii's brand as a place to do convention business.

We understand that the financial difficulties that the State is facing require decision-makers to make difficult decisions, but we offer these comments to help you make an informed decision.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed S.D.1 to H.B. 793.

Table 1. Estimated Revenue Impact of HB 793 Proposed SD1 (Date: April 5, 2011) (Prepared by DOTAX)

Based on COR 3/29/11	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
GET	2,424,512,000	2,590,161,000	2,770,545,000	2,966,538,000	3,173,832,000
Carved out 0.5% Wholesale GET @ 4%	106,777,060	114,072,348	122,016,575	130,648,232	139,777,592
	2,317,734,940	2,476,088,652	2,648,528,425	2,835,889,768	3,034,054,408
Public Service Company Tax @ 4%	184,395,000	208,207,000	229,718,000	249,458,000	267,857,000
1% Increase in GET (10/1/11 - 9/30/13) Adjusted for Response of Buyers		412,681,442	662,132,106	236,324,147	
		387,920,555	622,404,180	222,144,698	
1% Increase in PSC Tax (10/1/11 - 9/30/13)		34,701,167	57,429,500	20,788,167	
Repeal of GET Exemption (1/1/12 - 6/30/15) (Subject to 5% for 1/1/12 - 9/30/13, and 4% for 10/1/13 - 6/30/15)		84,216,218	231,313,879	206,486,189	196,320,715
Subtotal for Revenue Gain		506,837,940	911,147,559	449,419,054	196,320,715
Relief for the Poor and Working Class					
Part IV: Section 6 (TYs 2012 and 2013)					
Double Standard Deduction			(42,800,000)	(42,800,000)	
Part V: Section 8 (TYs 2012 and 2013)					
Increase Child Care Tax Credit			(8,700,000)	(8,700,000)	
Part VI: Section 9 (TYs 2012 and 2013)					
Double Renter's Credit			(5,290,000)	(5,290,000)	
Part VII: Section 10 (TYs 2012 and 2013)					
Double Food Credit Amount			(28,800,000)	(28,800,000)	
Part VIII: 10/1/11 - 9/30/13					
Increase capital goods excise tax credit		(5,666,667)	(8,500,000)	(2,833,333)	
Subtotal for Tax Reliefs		(5,666,667)	(94,090,000)	(88,423,333)	
Net revenue gain		501,171,274	817,057,559	360,995,721	196,320,715



L A T E

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

To: Senate Ways and Means Committee
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
From: Representative Gene Ward, House Minority Leader
Date: April 6, 2011
RE: Opposition to HB 793, SD1 Proposed – Relating to Taxation

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gene Ward, Representative of District 17 and the House Minority Leader. I have come here today to first and foremost thank you for your dedication to our State and the precarious economic situation we face. I am truly grateful to every lawmaker in this building who I strongly believe are working tirelessly to help our State navigate through the \$1.3 billion budget gap in front of us.

As you know, the House Republican Caucus recently presented a budget plan that includes many of the measures this committee is considering, including a continuation of the two-day furlough, the necessity of a 50/50 split for health premium payments and a repeal of a few of the exemptions in the proposed SD1 that is before this committee. Our plan, which is attached for your reference, includes the elimination of enterprise zone exemptions, federal cost-plus contractor exemptions, exemptions on liquor, tobacco and food sold to cruise ships and airlines travelling to foreign countries, the exemption for stevedore and longshoremen services and the exemption for union-owned real property leases. While the repeal of exemptions is not necessarily my caucus' preferred means to balance our state budget, we have recognized that we are in a very difficult financial situation, and we all need to make some sacrifices and compromises to help our State.

However, I am here today to strongly oppose the increase in the general excise tax that has been included in the proposed SD1 before this committee. While this committee has made efforts to limit the regressive nature of this tax, it is still a regressive tax that will hurt those already struggling disproportionately. I strongly believe that we cannot afford to raise the price of goods or hurt the cost of doing business any more than we already have, and this measure in its current form would do just that. Furthermore, this measure is unnecessary as the House Republican Caucus has already shown that the State budget can be balanced without an increase in the GET. I hope this committee will take the time to review our proposal and give serious thought to the crippling impact a GET increase will have on our economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Attachments: 2

	<u>FY 11</u>	<u>FY 12</u>	<u>FY 13</u>
Ending Balance (Surplus/Deficit)	19.6	15.6	83.1

Revenue Increase Options

Disturbance Below are various proposals designed to raise revenues to help close the budget gap. Some proposals are multi-year proposals. The most likely priority choices are highlighted.

		<u>FY 11</u>	<u>FY 12</u>	<u>FY 13</u>
Type "x" in the box to the left of the proposal you want to include in the budget.				
Gov. Abercrombie's Proposed Tax Measures				
X	Spend Rainy Day Funds (current balance \$46 million)	46.0	0.0	0.0
Legislative Proposals to Raise Revenues				
X	Delay state income tax deductions only for higher income individuals earning \$100,000 and above (HB 1092 proposed) OR	0.0	17.9	-17.9
X	Short-term loan from the Hurricane Relief Fund (SB 1270) (Current balance \$117 million)	47.0	0.0	-47.0
X	Delays planned increase of standard deductions and personal exemptions that lower your taxable income (HB 793)	0.0	11.5	11.5
X	Eliminates enterprise zone exemptions	0.0	1.0	2.2
X	Ends GET exemption for federal cost-plus contractors for materials and equipment	0.0	1.3	3.3
X	Ends GET exemption on liquor, tobacco and food sold to cruise ships and airlines traveling to foreign countries	0.0	1.9	4.8
X	Ends GET exemption for stevedore and longshoremen services on harbor docks	0.0	0.7	1.7
X	Ends exemptions for union-owned real property leases	0.0	0.0	0.0
X	Delays payments of existing 15% film production tax credits (HB 1551 proposed)	0.0	27.0	-27.0
X	Sell Aloha Tower Marketplace (HB1029)	0.0	0.0	95.0
X	Sell additional state-owned lands	0.0	54.0	13.4
X	Restructure state hospitals per legislatively-approved 2009 Stroudwater Report	0.0	30.0	30.0
X	Delay payment of State tax refunds until July 2011	183.0	-183.0	0.0
X	Enter into commercial leases for improvements on certain state lands	0.0	10.0	10.0
Special Fund Transfers:				
X	Transfer money in defunct photo enforcement (VanCam) revolving fund to general fund (HB 775)	3.5	0.0	0.0
X	Temporarily re-direct an excess portion of cigarette tax revenue from various special funds to the general fund	5.4	4.5	3.6
X	Temporarily re-direct excess fees collected by the deposit beverage container special fund to the general fund	3.9	2.6	1.3
X	Temporarily re-direct excess traffic violation surcharge revenues from neurotrauma special fund to general fund	1.0	0.8	0.5
X	Borrow excess cash balance in FY11-13 from the drinking water treatment revolving loan fund and deposit to general fund	5.6	3.6	-9.2
X	Borrow excess funds from the water pollution control revolving fund and deposit to general fund	10.0	8.0	-18.0
X	Borrow from dwelling unit revolving fund	0.0	10.0	-10.0
X	Merge High Technology Development Corporation and Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation to enable special and revolving fund transfers to general fund	0.0	6.8	6.8
Revenue Increase Totals:		305.4	8.5	55.1

	<u>FY 11</u>	<u>FY 12</u>	<u>FY 13</u>
Ending Balance (Surplus/Deficit)	19.6	15.6	83.1

Spending Cut Options

Instructions: Below are various proposals designed to cut expenditures to help close the budget gap, including options within "The Budget Bill" (HB 200). The House Minority Caucus' choices are highlighted.

Type "x" in the box to the left of the proposal you want to include in the budget.		<u>FY 11</u>	<u>FY 12</u>	<u>FY 13</u>
Gov. Abercrombie's Proposed Spending Measures				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emergency appropriation for Medicaid payments to hospitals and doctors (HB 1065)	32.5	25.0	0.0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emergency Appropriation for welfare payments and low income services (HB 1066)	58.7	0.0	0.0
Specific Budget Bill Adjustments				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agree with Finance Committee reductions to Abercrombie Budget (HB 200)	0.0	-252.5	-242.2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eliminate duplicate State/Federal occupational safety functions (LRB 143)	0.0	-0.6	-0.6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accept Gov. Abercrombie's proposals to reduce Medicaid services (HMS 401)	0.0	-25.0	-50.0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Institute \$1-3 co-pay on Medicare Part D prescription drugs (HMS 401)	0.0	-1.5	-1.5
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restrict appropriation to University of Hawaii by less than 1%	0.0	-21.1	-21.1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Postpone 60/40 health premium payments until FY13	-18.1	0.0	54.3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reduce funds for adult education (EDN 500)	0.0	-4.9	-4.9
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School-Based Budgeting (decrease funds to match 2010 reductions approved by DOE) (EDN 100)	0.0	-8.6	-8.6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reduce funds for personnel services, new furniture purchases and purchase-of-service contracts (EDN400)	0.0	-4.0	-4.0
Other Government Efficiencies				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Continue 2-day per month public sector furloughs, except for teachers and Education Dept personnel.	0.0	-115.7	-115.7
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transfer Bureau of Conveyances	0.0	-4.1	-4.1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eliminate duplicate budget, personnel, public relations, accounting and computer staff in each general funded cabinet agency	0.0	-3.8	-3.8
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Implement streamlining of public assistance services in State Dept. of Human Services	0.0	-8.0	-8.0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Use public-private partnerships to improve public housing property assets	0.0	-4.4	-4.4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Send 500 more prisoners to the mainland to eliminate overcrowding and improve safety	0.0	-11.9	-11.9
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Institute a partial hiring freeze and allow attrition to lower labor costs	0.0	-70.0	-70.0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Increase projected end of year lapses due to tighter controls on discretionary spending	-16.0	-16.0	-16.0
Expenditure/Cut Totals:		57.1	-527.1	-512.5



TOMCO CORP.

General Contractors

LATE

April 6, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE SENATOR DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBJECT: H.B. 793, HD1 PROPOSED SD1 RELATING TO TAXATION.

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

Tomco Corp. strongly opposes the passage of H.B.793, HD 1 Proposed SD1.

The provision to suspend the exemption for contractors in incremental steps from January 1, 2012 to June 15, 2015, is unfair as it will result in a general contractor paying state general excise taxes (GET) on taxes paid by subcontractors and subcontractors paying GET on taxes paid by its sub-subcontractors and so on. This exemption was in place to avoid this pyramiding effect of the GET. Eliminating this exemption will have devastating effects on the construction industry and result in higher cost to the public since the added cost will be tacked on to the cost of the project. I believe that at a time when construction activity in the State of Hawaii has stagnated leaving many construction workers unemployed, we should be avoiding, not adding costs that dampen construction activity.

While we understand that the state is faced with a large budget deficit and must find ways to balance the budget for the coming biennium we do not believe that eliminating the tax exemption currently available to general contractors is prudent or wise planning. For public works projects, the added cost to contractors will simply be passed on to the State. The added revenue collected from eliminating or reducing the exemption would simply pay for the added cost of the project, which makes little sense.

For private projects, removing this exemption for contractors will increase project costs, potentially shelving otherwise viable construction projects. Construction, one of the recognized key economic drivers of growth, would then be stymied at a time when the State could least afford it.

Should it be absolutely necessary to suspend the exemption, we agree that the tax should not apply to signed contracts that cannot pass on the increased tax, however we recommend that the implementation date be changed to "contracts entered into after December 31, 2011" to give contractors sufficient time to modify any bids submitted prior to the effective date of the bill that have not yet matured into contracts.

I believe that the alternative to increase the GET is also inadvisable. An increase in the general excise tax will have to be passed on to the consumer in the form of a price increase. Although the proposed HB793 provides for increases in items like the standard deductions on Hawaii income taxes, these deductions only apply to individual tax returns and not business tax returns. We urge the committee to seek other avenues to balance the State budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Glenn Ushio,
President,
Tomco Corp.

500 Alakawa Street #100A, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
Ph. (808) 845-0755 Fax (808) 845-1021
License # ABC 16941

LATE

Margaret Sutrov Architect Inc
Kula Maui Hawaii

The Honorable David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Ways and Means Committee
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

WAM Hearing Date: April 6, 2011, 9:30 am State Capitol Auditorium

Subject: OPPOSE as written, House Bill 793 SD1 Relating to Taxation; Section 3
Amending Chapter 237, Hawaii Revised Statutes to temporarily suspend exemption from January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015 for 1) Amounts deducted from the gross income received by contractors as described under section 237-13 (3) (B)

On behalf of the more than 800 architect members and other allied design professionals of The American Institute of Architects (AIA), AIA Hawaii State Council, I am writing to OPPOSE HB 793 SD1 on Taxation whose provisions aim to suspend key exemptions currently afforded to significant design and construction efforts in Hawaii, among other key business areas across the state. AIA Hawaii previously opposed similar provisions contained in then HB 799 HD1 for similar reasons.

The provision within HB 793 SD1 to remove the exemption currently afforded to "contractors" as defined in the Hawaii Revised Statutes (Section 237-13 (03) (B) (i) will specifically cause an adverse effect on our members, allied engineers and Hawaii construction firms, a majority of whom are small businesses in Hawaii. This measure will have a significantly broad and negative effect on our State's overall economy as we all know the importance of design and construction in stimulating economic growth and creating needed jobs.

While this measure is proposed to extract additional revenues to address the state's fiscal crisis, it is especially key to note that elimination of this specific exemption and others would come at a bad time as Hawaii's economy struggles to come back from the devastation of economic recession. Eliminating the general excise exemptions for temporary gain may have a significantly dire consequence over the long term. Moreover, the overall impact on the design and construction industry would be very large, because of the well documented "pyramid effect." A gross receipts tax, without key exemptions in place, has a well known escalating effect that creates an extra layer of taxation at each stage of the product and service life cycle. For the design and construction industry this leads to dramatically higher costs for housing, commercial and industrial structures built for Hawaii businesses, state and city governments and residential homeowners. Hawaii citizens already struggle with one of the highest costs for construction and housing in the nation.

We encourage you to seek more economically neutral ways of taxing businesses, and urge you to look deeper at long-term solutions for creating greater efficiencies within the government. This bill has the serious potential of reducing business in a time when Hawaii business needs stimulation. We urge opposition as currently written.

Sincerely,



Margaret J.B. Sutrov, AIA
President AIA Maui Chapter

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:31 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: MichaelM@TikisGrill.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael Miller
Organization: Tiki's Grill & Bar
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: MichaelM@TikisGrill.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:
Aloha Legislators,

We am strongly opposed to the raising of the General Excise Tax ("GET") and any temporary suspension on exemptions for certain business activities. HELP us keep the economy going by allowing us to give back to our employees and vendors. Government growth and spending needs to be reduced and private enterprise will grow.

The measures being considered under HB 793 are unacceptable and short-sighted. The raising of the GET hurts everyone, as it is a pyramiding tax that does not affect just the end consumer. Any additional taxes on goods and services or businesses will only continue to weaken the economy and kill job growth.

Our legislators should be looking at ways to save money and cut spending, rather than continually looking to the Hawaii taxpayers for more money. Legislators are supposed to represent their constituents and look out for their best interests. In tough economic times, everyone tightens up and eliminates unneeded or wasteful expenses. That is, everyone EXCEPT the government. Instead the government continues to spend and increase spending, all on the backs of the hard-working, taxpaying Hawaii residents. This trend needs to stop immediately.

Besides cutting spending, the committee should be looking at alternative options such as utilizing unused state land, buildings, office space, etc. through leases to start-ups, businesses or organizations who can then take over maintenance as well, thus earning money through lease rents and reducing expenses for non-used property maintenance. Every state department should be required to analyze the need and duties of each employee, justifying the size of the department and transferring those not needed. Everyone paid by the taxpayers needs to understand that the money does not come from government nor from the unions, but from every single taxpayer. Workers who are not productive need to be fired, and government unions should not be the reason bad, unproductive workers can keep their jobs and pensions.

We ask that our legislators do the best job that they can representing their constituents, with common sense, fairness and a fiduciary responsibility. We lose faith in them when they fail to do so. We hope that the Committee will recognize that HB 793 is not the answer to Hawaii's budget deficit and never will be.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Michael C. Miller
Director of Sales & Marketing
Tiki's Grill & Bar

808-923-Tiki (8454)

MichaelM@tikisgrill.com
www.TikisGrill.com

LATE

April 5, 2011

The Honorable David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Ways and Means Committee
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

WAM Hearing Date: April 6, 2011, 9:30 am State Capitol Auditorium

Subject: OPPOSE as written, House Bill 793 SD1 Relating to Taxation; Section 3
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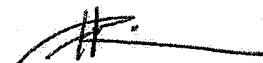
The provision within HB 793 SD1 to remove the exemption currently afforded to "contractors" as defined in the Hawaii Revised Statutes (Section 237-13 (03) (B) (i)) will specifically cause an adverse effect on our members, allied engineers and Hawaii construction firms, a majority of whom are small businesses in Hawaii. This measure will have a significantly broad and negative effect on our State's overall economy as we all know the importance of design and construction in stimulating economic growth and creating needed jobs.

While this measure is proposed to extract additional revenues to address the state's fiscal crisis, it is especially key to note that elimination of this specific exemption and others would come at a bad time as Hawaii's economy struggles to come back from the devastation of economic recession. Eliminating the general excise exemptions for temporary gain may have a significantly dire consequence over the long term.

Moreover, the overall impact on the design and construction industry would be very large, because of the well documented "pyramid effect." A gross receipts tax, without key exemptions in place, has a well-known escalating effect that creates an extra layer of taxation at each stage of the product and service life cycle. For the design and construction industry this leads to dramatically higher costs for housing, commercial and industrial structures built for Hawaii businesses, state and city governments and residential homeowners. Hawaii citizens already struggle with one of the highest costs for construction and housing in the nation.

We encourage you to seek more economically neutral ways of taxing businesses, and urge you to look deeper at long-term solutions for creating greater efficiencies within the government. This bill has the serious potential of reducing business in a time when Hawaii business needs stimulation. We urge opposition as currently written.

Sincerely,



Ronald Hagino AIA

Architect

LATE

KING & NEEL, INC.

1164 Bishop Street • Suite 1710 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: (808) 526-3811

Fax: (808) 526-3893

NATIONAL ASSOCIATE MEMBER



TO: THE HONORABLE SENATOR DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBJECT: H.B. 793, HD1 PROPOSED SD1 RELATING TO TAXATION.

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, April 6, 2011

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Auditorium

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

King & Neel, Inc. strongly opposes the passage of H.B.793, HD 1 Proposed SD1.

The provision to suspend the exemption for contractors in incremental steps from January 1, 2012 to June 15, 2015, is unfair as it will result in a general contractor paying state general excise taxes (GET) on taxes paid by subcontractors, and subcontractors paying GET on taxes paid by its sub-subcontractors, and so on. This exemption was in place to avoid this pyramiding effect of the GET. Eliminating this exemption will have devastating effects on the construction industry and result in higher cost to public and private owners since the added cost will appear in the cost of each project. At a time when construction activity in the State of Hawaii has stagnated leaving many construction workers unemployed, costs that impede construction activity should be avoided.

While we understand that the state is faced with a large budget deficit and must find ways to balance the budget, we do not believe that eliminating the tax exemption is prudent. As stated above, on public works projects, the added cost to contractors will actually be passed on to the State of Hawaii and all Counties. Thus, the added revenue collected from eliminating or reducing the exemption would be nullified by added costs on construction projects, which makes little sense.

For private projects, removing this exemption for general contractors will increase project costs, potentially shelving otherwise viable construction projects. Construction, one of the recognized key economic drivers of growth, would then be stymied at a time when the State could least afford it.

Should it be absolutely necessary to suspend the exemption, we suggest that the tax not apply to signed contracts that cannot pass on the increased tax. This would mean the implementation date be changed to "contracts entered into after December 31, 2011" to give contractors sufficient time to modify contract prices on bids submitted prior to the effective date of the Bill.

We believe that the alternatives to increasing the GET are also inadvisable, since increases will be passed on to consumers in the form of price increases. Although HB793 provides for increases in items like the standard deductions on Hawaii income taxes, these deductions only apply to individual tax returns and not business tax returns. We urge the committee to seek other avenues to balance the State budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

BIA-HAWAII
BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

LATE

April 6, 2011

Senator David Ige, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol Auditorium
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: HB793, Proposed SD1 Relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

I am Karen Nakamura, Chief Executive Officer of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii.

BIA-Hawaii and its 500 members are strongly opposed to HB793, Proposed SD1, Relating to Taxation.

In 2001, the Okada Trucking decision by the Supreme Court, interpreted the contractor license law and ruled that general contractors cannot do incidental work for which they are not licensed.

This interpretation impacted the growth of specialty contractor licenses which now totals over 168 types of licenses in Hawaii. Compounded by the proliferation of emerging products, the specialty types of licenses continues to grow since manufacturers require certification of fabricators and installers in order to warranty their products.

Today, a single sheet of plywood made into a cabinet and installed in a home would be subject to these taxes, (listed below), before the consumer pays the final GET 4.712% :

1. wholesaler of plywood: .5% resale tax
2. termite treatment of wood 4.712%
2. fabricator of Cabinet: 4.712%
3. painter of Cabinet: 4.712
4. installer of Cabinet: 4.712
5. contractor selling to end user: 4.712%

This type of pyramiding occurs on every type of work, including demolition and site development. Subs are using subs who are using subs in order to comply to the Supreme Court Ruling. There are huge fines for working out of scope which is considered unlicensed activity under this ruling.

Currently each specialty pays the 4.712% GET on that specific work. Each sub-contractor or supplier is listed on the GET reporting form when the contractor reports the difference, so the tax department sees which subs to audit for compliance of payment of GET.

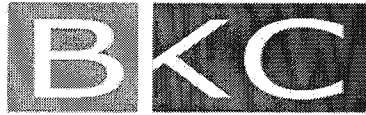
Suspension of subcontractor deductions increases the cost of construction exponentially and Honolulu is among the three highest cost of construction cities in the Nation. This also compound the cost of housing in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views with you.



Executive Vice President
Chief Executive Officer
BIA-Hawaii

LATE



**Barker Kappelle
Construction, LLC**

Dear Senator Ige and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Phillip Barker and I am the CEO for Barker Kappelle Construction, LLC.

I am opposed to HB793, Proposed SD1 that seeks to suspend subcontractor deductions. Please note that the subcontractor deduction is not an exemption and that general or prime contractors can deduct the taxes already paid by their subcontractors and sub-subs from their General Excise Tax Liability. This provision is in the tax code to prevent the pyramiding that was unfair to everyone, especially to the general contractors who paid taxes on taxes. In the case of home building, the ultimate consumer or home owner would be faced with the increased costs of pyramiding. Please allow the subcontractor deduction to remain.

The proposal for an increase in the General Excise Tax is also objectionable. If you remove the subcontractor deduction and you impose an increase in the General Excise Tax, it would be extremely difficult to maintain my business.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views with you.

Sincerely,

Phillip Barker

Barker Kappelle Construction, LLC

(808) 664-9212

LATE

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: 9:30am, Wednesday, April 6, 2011

Bill: HB793 Proposed SD1: Relating to Taxation

Testimony from: Signe Godfrey – Olsten Staffing Services

Aloha Senators,

Thank you, for taking the time to hear me out in regards to HB 793 Proposed SD1 which I am testifying in opposition to.

HB 793 Proposed SD1 would halt for a time being the G.E.T. and use tax exemptions for a number of people and businesses in Hawaii, instead making them pay the applicable tax at a graduated rate. It would also raise tax rates for a number of public service companies for the period between January 1st, 2012 and June 30th, 2015.

As someone whose work deals with many businesses and workers here in the state, I can see that many are still hurting from the economic downturn that we are continuing to climb out of. With recent events causing less money to come into Hawaii while costs such as gas rise in price, these businesses need your support so they can survive and help our economy move forward.

Mahalo for your care and understanding!



LATE

PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

Board of Directors

*Joanne Lundstrom, Chair
Howard Garval, Vice Chair
Victor Geminiani, Vice Chair
Alan Shinn, Treasurer
Susan Chandler
Jan Dill
Marya Grambs
Kathi Hasegawa
Nanci Kreidman
Ruthann Quitiquit
Jerry Rauckhorst
Sandra Yoro*

Executive Director

Alex Santiago

DATE: April 6, 2011

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means,
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Alexander C. Santiago, Executive Director
PHOCUSED (Protecting Hawai'i's Ohana, Children, UnderServed, Elderly and Disabled)

RE: HB 793

Aloha Senator David Ige, Chair, Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate committee on Ways and Means. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 793.

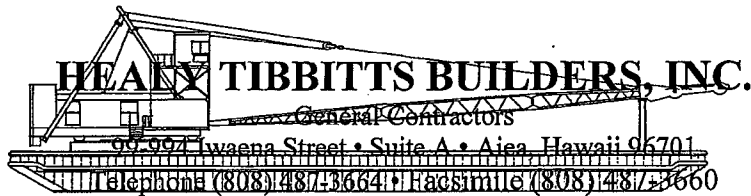
My name is Alex Santiago, I am the Executive Director of PHOCUSED, an advocacy organization of Social Service agencies and individuals dedicated to advocating on behalf of the most vulnerable in our state.

We are very concerned about the cuts we have witnessed to the social services safety net over the past few years. Services have been severely reduced to our most vulnerable residents, limiting our ability to provide for their needs. Many critical programs serving children, youth, and adults are no longer available or were cut severely so many people in need are not receiving services or are not getting adequate care. We believe the negative effects of these reductions will be felt severely by future generations. We are already seeing many stressors all across our communities; more homeless, more in need of food; more vulnerable children and battered women. As you well know, in times of economic stress, the vulnerable also get stressed... even more so perhaps than others. To maintain the quality of life and aloha that Hawai'i is known for, we can not cut more essential health and social services.

PHOCUSED understands the challenges the Legislature faces to find sufficient revenues during these difficult economic times and to manage the looming deficit. We strongly encourage you to implement progressive revenue and tax options to balance the budget and to preserve funding for critical services in our community that have already been severely cut. If we value a community in which the most vulnerable among us are protected and have the services they need, then the resources need to be provided for this to happen. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

Alex Santiago
Executive Director,
PHOCUSED



LATE

April 5, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE SENATOR DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBJECT: H.B. 793, HD1 PROPOSED SD1 RELATING TO TAXATION.

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, April 6, 2011
TIME: 9:30 am
PLACE: Auditorium

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

Healy Tibbitts Builders, Inc. **STRONGLY OPPOSES** the passage of H.B.793, HD 1 Proposed SD1.

The provision to suspend the exemption for contractors in incremental steps from January 1, 2012 to June 15, 2015, is unfair as it will result in a general contractor paying state general excise taxes (GET) on taxes paid by subcontractors and subcontractors paying GET on taxes paid by its sub-subcontractors and so on. This exemption was in place to avoid this pyramiding effect of the GET. Eliminating this exemption will have devastating effects on the construction industry and result in higher cost to the public since the added cost will be tacked on to the cost of the project. I believe that at a time when construction activity in the State of Hawaii has stagnated leaving many construction workers unemployed, we should be avoiding, not adding costs that dampen construction activity.

While we understand that the state is faced with a large budget deficit and must find ways to balance the budget for the coming biennium we do not believe that eliminating the tax exemption currently available to general contractors is prudent or wise planning. For public works projects, the added cost to contractors will simply be passed on to the State. The added revenue collected from eliminating or reducing the exemption would simply pay for the added cost of the project, which makes little sense.

For private projects, removing this exemption for contractors will increase project costs, potentially shelving otherwise viable construction projects. Construction, one of the recognized key economic drivers of growth, would then be stymied at a time when the State could least afford it.

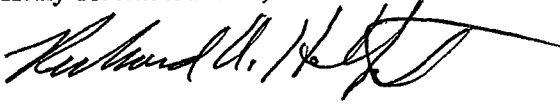
Should it be absolutely necessary to suspend the exemption, we agree that the tax should not apply to signed contracts that cannot pass on the increased tax, however we recommend that the implementation date be changed to "**contracts entered into after December 31, 2011**" to give contractors sufficient time to modify any bids submitted prior to the effective date of the bill that have not yet matured into contracts.

I believe that the alternative to increase the GET is also inadvisable. An increase in the general excise tax will have to be passed on to the consumer in the form of a price increase. Although the proposed HB793 provides for increases in items like the standard deductions on Hawaii income taxes, these deductions

only apply to individual tax returns and not business tax returns. We urge the committee to seek other avenues to balance the State budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Very truly yours,
Healy Tibbitts Builders, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard A. Heltzel", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Richard A. Heltzel
President

LATE



Honua Power

renewable energy

SEVEN WATERFRONT PLAZA, 500 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD SUITE 7-220, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 TEL. (808) 550-2877 FAX (808) 523-3122

April 5, 2011

VIA WEBSITE - <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony/>

Chair David Y. Ige
Vice Chair Michelle Kidani
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Capitol, Conf. Auditorium
Regular Session of 2011

Re: H.B. 793, Proposed S.D. 1, Relating to Taxation
Hearing on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 9:30 p.m.

Dear Chair Ige and Vice Chair Kidani:

Honua Power, LLC (“Honua”) is a renewable energy developer based in Hawaii. We hereby submit this letter in OPPOSITION to H.B. 793, S.D. 1 Proposed, Relating to Taxation. This bill unjustifiably “suspends temporarily the exemptions” for Qualified Businesses in Enterprise Zones, as described under section 209E-11” including the “[g]ross proceeds received by contractors licensed under chapter 444 for construction within enterprise zones performed for Qualified Businesses within the Enterprise Zones or businesses approved by the department of business, economic development, and tourism to enroll into the enterprise zone program, as described under HRS Section 209E-11.” In addition, the bill repeals the exemption for air pollution control facilities under HRS Section 237-27.5. We are strongly opposed to any suspension of the excise tax exemption for qualified businesses, construction work performed for those businesses, or for pollution control facilities.

Honua will produce approximately 12 MW net of non-fossil fuel renewable electrical energy that will be supplied to the residents of Oahu. This renewable energy will reduce oil consumption by 177,000 barrels, light 12,000 homes, and count toward the state of Hawaii’s renewable portfolio standard goals of 15% renewable energy generation by 2015 and 40% of new renewable energy generation by 2040. This activity will not only prevent such valuable energy resources from taking up scarce landfill space indefinitely, thereby stabilizing the tipping fees and discouraging illegal landfills, but it will also relieve all of us from purchasing fossil-fuel-derived energy from foreign sources and delink the price of that energy from the price of oil forever.

Honua has executed a 20 year Power Purchase Agreement (“PPA”) with Hawaiian Electric Company setting forth fixed pricing for renewable electrical power received from Honua’s facility. This agreement has already been approved by the state of Hawaii Public Utilities Commission and the energy provided under the agreement has been held by the PUC, as a matter of law, to meet the definition of “renewable electrical energy” or “renewable energy” as defined under Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 269-91, so as to be counted toward the renewable portfolio standards for Hawaii.

However, there is no mechanism under the PPA by which our company may raise the price for power charged to HECO, and, thereby, pass on to the ratepayers specific increases in the cost to produce the renewable electrical energy delivered by Honua. Therefore, the application of this repeal of the general excise tax exemption for qualified businesses, contractors doing work for Qualified Businesses in Enterprise Zones, and the exemption for pollution control facilities, will add millions of dollars of capital expense to our project budget and adversely affect our company’s ability to obtain project financing

LATE

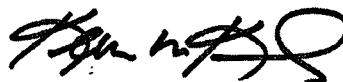
Chair David Y. Ige
Vice Chair Michelle Kidani
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
April 5, 2011
Page Two

because it will erode our ability to meet the debt service coverage ratios (“DSCR”) required by lenders.

It is very difficult for projects like ours to receive project finance funding necessary to construct the facility in the first place. “The project is too small, Hawaii is too remote and the project finance credit market is too tight.” Nevertheless, Honua has already succeeded in qualifying the project for financing and we are preparing to close on that financing with this legislative session. However, given the DSCR required by project finance lenders in the current marketplace that could very well change with this amendment. The imposition of the general excise tax on activities relating to our project will have the effect of raising the cost to produce renewable energy without any corresponding way for our company to recover that cost by increasing revenue. Any additional cost to a project like ours, at this time, will have the effect of quashing the successful completion of the project even though it is otherwise financeable.

The repeal of these tax exemptions comes at a time when we all desperately need renewable energy to succeed for our state. Any change to the existing exemption regime would confound the development of renewable energy resources in our state at an incredibly vulnerable and critical time for the struggling industry. We can think of no better reasons to keep Chapter 237 intact in its present form. For these reasons, Honua Power opposes this proposed draft. Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments.

Very truly yours,



Kevin Kondo
Managing Partner,
General Counsel
Honua Power, LLC



Activities & Attractions Association of Hawaii
PO Box 598, Makawao, Hawaii 96768
(808)871-7947 Office (808)877-3104 Fax

LATE

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 9:30am
Auditorium**

RE: House Bill 793 SD1 RELATING TO TAXATION

Honorable Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani & members of this committee;

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify, my name is Toni Marie Davis. For the last 13 years it has been my honor to serve the activity & attraction industry of Hawaii through my position as the Executive Director of the Activities & Attractions Association of Hawaii, (A3H). A3H is a statewide, not for profit, 501c6, trade association representing Hawaii's premier activities & attractions.

A3H membership spans all counties with nearly 200 businesses statewide. Our business members come in all sizes, from those which employ hundreds with outside the state corporations, down to owner operated businesses employing one to two people. With this diversity establishing political consensus is often challenging. To address HB793 & have our members' voice heard A3H circulated a simple 4 question survey to all members. The following are the results:

1. Position on HB793 SD1
 - 81% Opposed**
 - 11% Support**
 - 3% Undecided**
 - 5% Other: Support an increase to GET, but believe 1% is too high OR Suggest a Sales Tax**

2. Ways for Reduced Government Spending:
 - 78 % Cut the size of government, reducing positions**
 - 73 % Renegotiate and reduce government employee benefits packages**
 - 65 % Audit the Department of Education**
 - 65 % Audit the Department of Land & Natural Resources**
 - 54 % Privatize services**
 - 5 % Cut Spending across the board**

Comments worth noting: 1. the solution is to weed out waste. Need to audit all expenditures in all departments. 2. More furlough days to reduce costs; this is easy to reverse if need can be justified. 3. The state should sell its vast holdings of residential, industrial, commercial and agricultural lands prior to considering any tax increases. The state has no business being a landlord. 4. Privatize the harbors in Hawaii and build a new dry dock facility on Maui for all the catamarans



Activities & Attractions Association of Hawaii
PO Box 598, Makawao, Hawaii 96768
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3. When ask if they believed the general public understands that a 1% General Excise Tax (GET) increase on a 4% tax equates to a 25% increase and that GET is a tax that gets multiplied many times over?

89 % NO
8 % Yes
3 % Not sure

4. The Last questions was whether they would be submitting testimony

68 % No
32 % Yes

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at (808)871-7947 ext. 112 or 1-800-398-9698 ext.112.

Toni Marie Davis

Toni Marie Davis/Executive Director
Activities & Attractions Association of Hawaii



Activities & Attractions Association of Hawaii
PO Box 598, Makawao, Hawaii 96768
(808)871-7947 Office (808)877-3104 Fax

LATE

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 9:30am
Auditorium**

RE: House Bill 793 SD1 RELATING TO TAXATION

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Toni Marie Davis

Toni Marie Davis/Executive Director
Activities & Attractions Association of Hawaii

**TESTIMONY OF KEONI WAGNER ON BEHALF OF HAWAIIAN AIRLINES IN
OPPOSITION TO H.B. NO. 793, PROPOSED SD 1, RELATING TO TAXATION**

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

LATE

To: Chairman David Ige and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Keoni Wagner and I am the Vice President for Public Affairs for Hawaiian Airlines presenting this testimony on behalf of Hawaiian Airlines in opposition to H.B. No. 793, Proposed SD 1.

Hawaiian Airlines understands the severity of the budget problem and the difficulty of finding solutions to balance the state budget with the severe economic situation facing the state. At the same time, we believe Sections 2, 3 and 4 of this bill will undermine the state's economic recovery and effectively put Hawaii companies at a disadvantage to competitors based elsewhere.

Hawaiian Airlines is the only carrier serving Hawaii from the mainland that is entirely focused on our home state and the only carrier whose economic well being is tied directly to that of Hawaii. The company is reinvesting profits in expansion and is actively pursuing a growth strategy that is aimed at adding service and new routes to bring more visitors to Hawaii. We are increasing service to Tokyo and Osaka in Japan and to Korea. This growth is providing significant increases in tourism and tax revenues to the state. Last year, the HTA estimated that our Haneda flight alone would boost visitor spending in Hawaii by more than \$130 million.

The company has committed to investing in a fleet of new long range aircraft to fulfill its vision to become an even larger contributor to Hawaii tourism. We have taken possession of three new aircraft since Spring 2010, with two more arriving this year and additional aircraft scheduled for delivery in future years.

Hawaiian is the only airline which employs large numbers of individuals in the state. We have hired more than 600 employees over the past two years and plan to hire 250 more in the next few months.

The current exemptions that exist in the law are part of the foundations upon which this growth at Hawaiian has been planned. Elimination of any of the current tax exemptions affecting airlines will disproportionately injure local airlines, such as Hawaiian, and will deepen the competitive disadvantage we already face. Carriers not based in Hawaii have little exposure to state taxes compared to Hawaiian, so the impact on Hawaiian is much larger. We would ask whether it is good policy to pass legislation that as a matter of design actively disadvantages Hawaii-based companies over companies in the same industry that are based in other states.

There is a belief that, with the exemptions covered by this measure in place, Hawaii based airlines don't pay their fair share. Nothing could be further from the truth. Commercial aviation is among the highest-taxed industries in the country. The rate of taxes and fees paid to government on each ticket has increased two thirds in the last ten years and now stands in excess of 20%. Adding General Excise Tax (GET) to our aviation related expenditures doesn't remove a subsidy from Hawaiian, it would instead deepen the unfair tax burden that we already carry today.

Hawaiian currently pays the state approximately \$50 million annually in taxes and fees – \$5.2 million of that in direct GET payments this year – and our employees also contribute more than \$9 million in state taxes. The taxes and fees we pay to the State have more than doubled in the last five years and are set to increase further in 2011. Replacement of the current tax exemptions with a 4% tax would raise Hawaiian's existing tax burden by up to \$25 million in 2012 and this amount would multiply in successive years as we bring additional new aircraft into

Hawaii. The total increased tax burden on our company would be up to \$84 million over three and a half years. Hawaiian is not able to absorb cost increases of this magnitude.

A 1% increase in the GET as proposed in this measure would further increase Hawaiian's direct tax burden by more than \$1 million annually, and this would be magnified by the GET we pay on our vendors' invoices.

While 2010 was a positive year for Hawaiian, the risk factors this year are far greater.

For example:

- a. Oil prices have been steadily increasing and recently hit a two-year high. Our fuel costs are projected to be 50 percent higher this year than in 2010.
- b. Labor costs are higher with new contracts in effect
- c. Other government fees and taxes are increasing
- d. Aircraft maintenance costs are projected to be higher
- e. Investments in opening new routes and markets
- f. Uncertainty about Japan visitor traffic

Hawaiian is already facing substantial financial pressures with high fuel prices and the prospect of diminished revenues on some routes that have already required increased costs to be passed along in the form of higher fares on mainland and international routes. Loss of these exemptions and an increase in GET will require further fare increases across our system and/or other remedies, such as reductions in service and workforce. Accordingly, we urge the Committee to defer this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



LATE

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair

Date: April 6, 2011, State Capitol Auditorium, 9:30 a.m.

Re: **HB 793, SD1 PROPOSED**

Chair Ige and Committee Members:

My name is Barbara Kim Stanton, State Director of AARP Hawaii. AARP is a membership organization of people 50 and older with nearly 150,000 members in Hawaii. We are committed to championing access to affordable, quality health care for all generations, providing the tools needed to save for retirement, and serving as a reliable information source on issues critical to Americans age 50+.

AARP offers the following comments on **HB 793, SD1 Proposed**, which temporarily increases general excise and use tax (GET), suspends certain GET exemptions, and provides for food and other tax credits. Our comments specifically relate to the increase in GET and the various tax credits.

Most seniors believe that all Hawaii residents need to collectively work to address the state's approximate \$1.3 billion two-year budget deficit. The staggering size of this deficit will affect all of us. Due to this broad impact, many seniors fundamentally believe that, in order to be effective, the solutions to this problem must also be broad-based. Hawaii seniors are willing to do their fair share to help solve this problem, but believe this sacrifice must be shared as equitably as possible.

Viewed through these objectives, AARP believes that this bill is a vast improvement over other GET and tax proposals under consideration by the legislature, as it mitigates the regressive aspects of a GET increase by doubling the tax credits for moderate to lower income families in several areas (e.g. child and dependent care expenses, food/excise tax credit, low-income household renters, etc.) and captures 38% of the GET that is currently exported by non-residents. For example, if a 1% increase in the GET raises \$500 million, 38% of this amount (or \$190 million) would be generated as additional revenues, from non-residents, that could pay for critical State programs and maintain fiscal stability.

The temporary nature of this GET proposal, combined with tax credits that reduce the tax burden for taxpayers with moderate to lower incomes is a reasonable means to partially resolve the State's budget deficit. This a broad based tax measure that does not target groups such as seniors, in contrast to the pension tax bills being considered that directly target retirees on fixed incomes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Progressive Democrats of Hawai'i

<http://pd-hawaii.com>

2457 Lamaku Pl., Honolulu, HI 96816

<mailto:info@pd-hawaii.com>

Tel: 808.371.9334

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator David Ige, Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

LATE

DATE: Wednesday April 6, 2011

TIME: 9:30 AM

PLACE: Capitol Auditorium

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB793 SD1 PROPOSED RELATING TO TAXATION

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

I am testifying on behalf of Progressive Democrats of Hawai'i (PDH) in strong support of House Bill 793 as proposed.

Given the slow recovery of Hawai'i's economy, as well as the fact that government programs and services have already been cut to the bone, it is urgent that the legislature endeavor to increase revenue to keep us from sinking further and to avoid further cuts to government programs and services that are desperately needed by those hardest hit by the great recession.

We support this proposal because it is truly an example of shared sacrifice; a temporary increase in the General Excise and Use Taxes will be shared by the broadest possible cross-section of the population. This increase, with the additionally proposed increases in tax credits will raise substantial amounts of revenue, while at the same time addressing and offsetting the otherwise regressive nature of such an increase.

It is important to note a couple of things about the proposed increase. According to the 2007 Hawai'i Tax Review Commission, approximately 38% of the GET is exported to "non-residents." This is substantial and, in our view, possibly the best example of why an increase GET is not only effective, but also why we must not take this option off the table. What's more, even with the proposed increases in the listed tax credits, the proposed 1% increase will raise \$884.7 million for the 2011/2012 biennium, thereby dramatically reducing the state's budget shortfall.

We believe it is also important to note that, for a family of four with \$40,000 in taxable income, this combined proposal will actually SAVE money. Take a look at the numbers and you will see the combined change in this family's tax liability will be -73%! Not only will they take home more money with each paycheck, but they will also receive a refund when they file their taxes. There's no denying the substantial savings this family will experience.

Let me also point out that, as a single person who made just over \$25,000 last year, the savings I'll see won't be anywhere near that significant, but I'd still see a total tax savings of 8%.



Progressive Democrats of Hawai'i

<http://pd-hawaii.com>

2457 Lamaku Pl., Honolulu, HI 96816

<mailto:info@pd-hawaii.com>

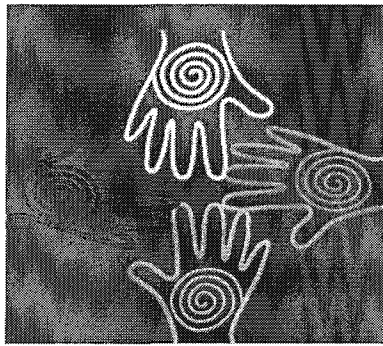
Tel: 808.371.9334

Given all of this, we urge you, respectfully, to pass this bill out as amended.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

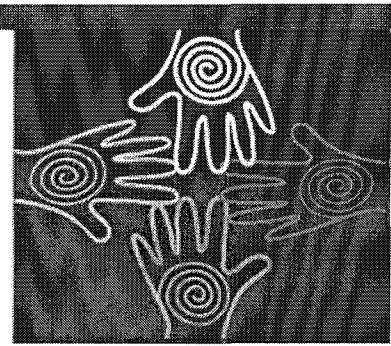
Josh Frost

Co-Chair, Progressive Democrats of Hawai'i



PRIDE AT WORK Hawai'i

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, & TRANSGENDER LABOR



April 7, 2011

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Chair, Sen. David Ige
Vice Chair, Sen. Michelle Kidani

LATE

Testimony in support of HB793 SD1

Pride At Work Hawai'i, as an affiliate of the Hawai'i State AFL-CIO which works to mobilize lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) workers and their supporters for full equality and to build mutual support between the labor movement and the LGBT community, supports HB 793 in its proposed SD1 draft. As proposed, this bill would help address the projected budget deficit by temporarily increasing the GET and cutting a number of exemptions; the regressive nature of the GET increase would be offset by additional tax exemptions for lower income residents.

We support this bill because we believe that further cuts to government services will have deleterious effects on a broad cross-section of Hawai'i's people. We have seen the impact that cuts have had over the past two years, and believe that we must instead find ways to increase revenue to avoid further cuts if at all possible. The temporary increase in the GET - a major portion of which will be born by visitors - will help lessen the impact by spreading it out among a large group of people, while new tax credits for lower income residents will help make sure those least able to pay are not effected.

As our economy continues to struggle, it is government's duty to provide a safety net to protect those most vulnerable to the effects of the downturn. Hawai'i's safety net has already been frayed by recent cuts; we believe this bill will help keep it from falling apart completely. It is a matter of social and economic justice.

We encourage you to support this bill, and thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Testimony on HB 793: Relating to GET

Senator David Ige, Chair Ways and Means Committee

April 6, 2011 @ 9:30 am

LATE

Capitol Auditorium

**From: Gail Breakey, Executive Director
Hawaii Family Support Institute**

Good morning Senator Ige, Member of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, I am Gail Breakey, Director of the Hawaii Family Support Institute, testifying in support of the temporary increase in the General Excise Tax, temporary hold on some GET tax exemptions and food and other tax credits..

No one likes tax increases. But with huge budget deficits facing us, it's important to clarify all that is at stake. First of all, state functions are already stretched to the max. Staffing levels are way past the point of doing more with less. With staff shortages, permits are not processed timely, the health department is short of staff to investigate dengue fever, the administration has only one tax expert to assess the impact of tax related revenue options.

I have been involved in health and human services for over 40 years, and historically services to the vulnerable young, old and disabled are unfortunately a usual place for cuts. Most people don't feel the importance of these until a family member or friend suddenly need help: child day care, shelter from domestic violence, day care and home services for the aging, support for someone who is disabled and can't cope on his/her own, medical care, family counseling. Most people agree we need to prevent and intervene with child abuse

Everything is on the table- reducing a range of tax exemptions, changes in retirement plans, an increase in GET and major cuts in services. One legislative leader has highlighted an important consideration "What do we want our community to look like when this is over?"

Thinking about this- the old story of "stone soup" comes to mind, where everyone pitches in something and comes up with a good meal. For now, if everyone gives a little, the

pain will be less devastating and we won't lose services that have taken decades to build up. We should be able to take a little from all quarters and survive with community foundations remaining on which to rebuild in the years to come.

The GET increase is a reasonable place to do this. We must raise revenues unless we intend to have communities that can't function well.. Business doesn't want a GET increase, but they can pass this on to consumers. Most of us can easily pay a few cents or a few dollars more for purchases. As long as exemptions are in place for low income people, no one get seriously hurt. To me, raising income is highly preferable to eliminating the safety net and leaving government unable to function. I hope that others feel this way too. .

Mahalo,

Gail Breakey, MPH
Waipio/Waipahu Ph: 226-4817

Natalie J. Iwasa, CPA, Inc.
1331 Lunalilo Home Road
Honolulu, HI 96825
808-395-3233

LATE

TO: Committee on Ways and Means
DATE: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 6, 2011
RE: HB793, SD1 Relating to Taxation - **OPPOSE**

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

This bill would "temporarily" increase the general excise tax (GET) to 5%, suspend certain GET exemptions and deductions and reduce tax liabilities for certain individuals via increased tax credits and deductions. "Temporarily" here is two years for the GET increase and three-and-a-half years for the exemptions and deductions. **I strongly urge you to vote "no" on this bill.**

The legislature is considering adding new fees for just about everything from business registrations and license renewals to plastic bags as well as adding new requirements for businesses to implement certain programs such as comprehensive written information security plans. These new fees and regulations will have a detrimental effect on small businesses. As fees, taxes and regulations increase, businesses attempt to pass those costs on to consumers. Given our current state of the economy, however, demand decreases as prices increase, so the increased GET that is proposed is not as effective as one might think. In my practice, I have two clients who are currently on the brink of bankruptcy - two out of about 30. I therefore urge you not to increase the GET.

In addition, following are specific exemptions and deductions that should not be suspended because they help reduce the pyramiding effect of the GET. (Note I am not as familiar with some of the other exemptions and therefore offer no comments on them.)

Page 3, lines 1 and 2 - amounts deducted by contractors under sec. 237-13(3)(B), i.e., subcontractors. Under current law, if a homeowner wanted to add on to her home and the contract price were \$50,000 including \$10,000 for a painter, \$10,000 for an electrician, \$10,000 for a plumber and \$20,000 for the general, the total amount of GET, excluding any surcharge, would be \$2,150. If this bill becomes law as written, the tax would be \$3,200, almost a 50% increase. The more contractors there are, the higher the increase in tax would be because of the pyramiding.

Page 3, lines 11 - 13 - amounts deducted by real property lessors for amounts received by sublessees. The exemption works the same way the contractor exemption does. Many

Natalie Iwasa
HB793, SD1
April 6, 2011
Page 2

smaller offices are often subleased once and sometimes twice as businesses attempt to **reduce their costs**. Removing this exemption increases costs for businesses, which will then attempt to pass them on as higher priced goods and services.

The legislature is trying to make this measure more palatable by increasing certain credits. While this is admirable, these credits do not go far enough to offset the regressive nature of the GET. For example, Page 13, lines 12 and 13, indicate the credit for low-income (< \$30,000 gross income for individuals as well as couples) household renters would increase from \$50 to \$100 per qualified exemption. If we assume a low-income couple pays \$875 (\$30,000 x 35%) per month for rent, the current amount of GET included in the rent is \$420. Even at the increased credit amount of \$200 (\$100 for each spouse), this credit doesn't come close to offsetting the current GET. With GET at 5%, an additional \$105 in tax is paid annually.

Simply put, our state government is bloated and more cuts need to be made. The legislature pushed through an \$18M increase in state expenses so government employees would have 60% of their medical premiums covered rather than the prior 50%. We cannot afford that, and now you want to increase taxes and fees to the detriment of many residents as well as small businesses. That is not acceptable.

I urge you to vote "no" on this bill.

Grace Pacific
CORPORATION
P.O. Box 78 / Honolulu, Hawaii 96810

Administrative Office (808) 674-8583 Fax (808) 674-1040
Billing Office (808) 845-3991 Fax (808) 842-3706
Clerical Office (808) 672-3545 Fax (808) 672-3998



April 6, 2011

LATE

TO: THE HONORABLE SENATOR DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF
THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBJECT: H.B. 793, HD1 PROPOSED SD1 RELATING TO TAXATION.

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, April 6, 2011
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: Auditorium

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

Grace Pacific Corporation **strongly opposes** the passage of H.B. 793, HD1 Proposed SD1.

The provision to suspend the exemption for contractors in incremental steps from January 1, 2012 to June 15, 2015, is unfair as it will result in a general contractor paying state general excise taxes (GET) on taxes paid by subcontractors and subcontractors paying GET on taxes paid by its sub-subcontractors and so on. This exemption was in place to avoid this pyramiding effect of the GET. Eliminating this exemption will have devastating effects on the construction industry and result in higher cost to the public since the added cost will be tacked on to the cost of the project. I believe that at a time when construction activity in the State of Hawaii has stagnated leaving many construction workers unemployed, we should be avoiding, not adding costs that dampen construction activity.

While we understand that the state is faced with a large budget deficit and must find ways to balance the budget for the coming biennium we do not believe that eliminating the tax exemption currently available to general contractors is prudent or wise planning. For public works projects, the added cost to contractors will simply be passed on to the State. The added revenue collected from eliminating or reducing the exemption would simply pay for the added cost of the project, which makes little sense.

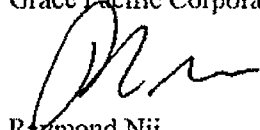
For private projects, removing this exemption for contractors will increase project costs, potentially shelving otherwise viable construction projects. Construction, one of the recognized key economic drivers of growth, would then be stymied at a time when the State could least afford it.

Should it be absolutely necessary to suspend the exemption, we agree that the tax should not apply to signed contracts that cannot pass on the increased tax, however we recommend that the implementation date be changed to "contracts entered into after December 31, 2011" to give contractors sufficient time to modify any bids submitted prior to the effective date of the bill that have not yet matured into contracts.

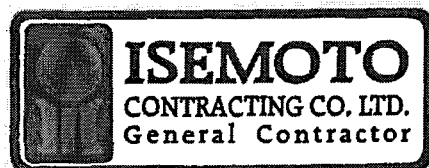
I believe that the alternative to increase the GET is also inadvisable. An increase in the general excise tax will have to be passed on to the consumer in the form of a price increase. Although the proposed IIB793 provides for increases in items like the standard deductions on Hawaii income taxes, these deductions only apply to individual tax returns and not business tax returns. We urge the committee to seek other avenues to balance the State budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Grace Pacific Corporation



Raymond Nii
Manager, Eng, Admin, IDIQ



Contractor's License No. ABC1036

☐ MAIN OFFICE: 648 PIILANI STREET, P.O. BOX 4669, HILO, HAWAII 96720
PHONE (808) 935-7194 FAX (808) 961-6417
☐ KONA BRANCH: 74-5039B QUEEN KAAHUMANU HWY., P.O. BOX 3169, KAILUA-KONA, HI 96740
PHONE (808) 329-8051 FAX (808) 329-3261

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An Equal Opportunity Employer

April 6, 2011

LATE

TO: THE HONORABLE SENATOR DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBJECT: H.B. 793, HD1 PROPOSED SD1 RELATING TO TAXATION.

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, April 6, 2011
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: Auditorium

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

Isemoto Contracting Co., Ltd. **strongly opposes** the passage of H.B.793, HD 1 Proposed SD1.

The provision to suspend the exemption for contractors in incremental steps from January 1, 2012 to June 15, 2015, is unfair as it will result in a general contractor paying state general excise taxes (GET) on taxes paid by subcontractors and subcontractors paying GET on taxes paid by its sub-subcontractors and so on. This exemption was in place to avoid this pyramiding effect of the GET. Eliminating this exemption will have devastating effects on the construction industry and result in higher cost to the public since the added cost will be tacked on to the cost of the project. I believe that at a time when construction activity in the State of Hawaii has stagnated leaving many construction workers unemployed, we should be avoiding, not adding costs that dampen construction activity.

While we understand that the state is faced with a large budget deficit and must find ways to balance the budget for the coming biennium we do not believe that eliminating the tax exemption currently available to general contractors is prudent or wise planning. For public works projects, the added cost to contractors will simply be passed on to the State. The added revenue collected from eliminating or reducing the exemption would simply pay for the added cost of the project, which makes little sense.

For private projects, removing this exemption for contractors will increase project costs, potentially shelving otherwise viable construction projects. Construction, one of the recognized key economic drivers of growth, would then be stymied at a time when the State could least afford it.

Should it be absolutely necessary to suspend the exemption, we agree that the tax should not apply to signed contracts that cannot pass on the increased tax, however we recommend that the implementation date be changed to "**contracts entered into after December 31, 2011**" to give contractors sufficient time to modify any bids submitted prior to the effective date of the bill that have not yet matured into contracts.

I believe that the alternative to increase the GET is also inadvisable. An increase in the general excise tax will have to be passed on to the consumer in the form of a price increase. Although the proposed HB793 provides for increases in items like the standard deductions on Hawaii income taxes, these deductions only apply to individual tax returns and not business tax returns. We urge the committee to seek other avenues to balance the State budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Page 2

April 6, 2011

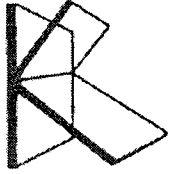
THE HONORABLE SENATOR DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBJECT: H.B. 793, HD1 PROPOSED SD1 RELATING TO TAXATION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leslie Isemoto", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Leslie Isemoto,
President



KALU GLASS COMPANY, INC.

99-1405 Koaha Street "C"
Aiea, Hawaii 96701-5613
(808) 486-7488 FAX (808) 486-7710
allinton@kalu-fuller.com

LATE

April 6, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE SENATOR DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBJECT: H.B. 793, HD1 PROPOSED SD1 RELATING TO TAXATION.

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, April 6, 2011
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: Auditorium

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

Kalu Glass Co. strongly opposes the passage of H.B.793, HD 1 Proposed SD1.

The provision to suspend the exemption for contractors in incremental steps from January 1, 2012 to June 15, 2015, is unfair as it will result in a general contractor paying state general excise taxes (GET) on taxes paid by subcontractors and subcontractors paying GET on taxes paid by its sub-subcontractors and so on. This exemption was in place to avoid this pyramiding effect of the GET. Eliminating this exemption will have devastating effects on the construction industry and result in higher cost to the public since the added cost will be tacked on to the cost of the project. I believe that at a time when construction activity in the State of Hawaii has stagnated leaving many construction workers unemployed, we should be avoiding, not adding costs that dampen construction activity.

While we understand that the state is faced with a large budget deficit and must find ways to balance the budget for the coming biennium we do not believe that eliminating the tax exemption currently available to general contractors is prudent or wise planning. For public works projects, the added cost to contractors will simply be passed on to the State. The added revenue collected from eliminating or reducing the exemption would simply pay for the added cost of the project, which makes little sense.

For private projects, removing this exemption for contractors will increase project costs, potentially shelving otherwise viable construction projects. Construction, one of the recognized key economic drivers of growth, would then be stymied at a time when the State could least afford it.

Should it be absolutely necessary to suspend the exemption, we agree that the tax should not apply to signed contracts that cannot pass on the increased tax, however we recommend that the implementation date be changed to "contracts entered into after December 31, 2011" to give contractors sufficient time to modify any bids submitted prior to the effective date of the bill that have not yet matured into contracts.

I believe that the alternative to increase the GET is also inadvisable. An increase in the general excise tax will have to be passed on to the consumer in the form of a price increase. Although the proposed HB793 provides for increases in items like the standard deductions on Hawaii income taxes, these deductions only apply to individual tax returns and not business tax returns. We urge the committee to seek other avenues to balance the State budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Respectfully,

Al Linton
President

**LATE**

ROWENA B. COBB
P.O. Box 157
Koloa, HI 96756-0157
Phone (808) 742-9497
FAX (808) 742-9556

April 6, 2011

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, Room 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: H.B. 793, Proposed S.D.1, Relating To Taxation

HEARING: Wednesday, April 6, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.

Thank you Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee

I am Rowena Cobb, a Realtor and have my own business in Hawaii. I strongly oppose the portion in H.B. 793, S.D.1 referring to a GET increase from 4 to 5 percent. This being added to the bill will affect every individual at every level. This is a tax we will pay for everything from education books to prescriptions, to food and drinks to every service we ask for. This is a tax we pay which, in most cases, has already been paid once adding to the cost of what we buy. Think on this. Everything an individual buys, has had a payment of GET thus adding to the final total purchase. Those who pay are not excluded according to age, location or item purchased ... it covers the whole gamut... , a cup of coffee, medicine, a quick sandwich, a quart of milk, rent, and everything else being bought/ . It adds up dramatically.

This is a quick fix for the state and a lasting effect on those who pay.

Consideration regarding this increase is requested.

I thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rowena B. Cobb", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rowena B. Cobb
CRB, CRB, GRI, ePRO, SFR
Principal Broker/Owner



LATE

Contractor Lic. # AC 14126

TO: THE HONORABLE SENATOR DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBJECT: H.B. 793, HD1 PROPOSED SD1 RELATING TO TAXATION.

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, April 6, 2011

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Auditorium

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

Your company **strongly opposes** the passage of H.B.793, HD 1 Proposed SD1.

The provision to suspend the exemption for contractors in incremental steps from January 1, 2012 to June 15, 2015, is unfair as it will result in a general contractor paying state general excise taxes (GET) on taxes paid by subcontractors and subcontractors paying GET on taxes paid by its sub-subcontractors and so on. This exemption was in place to avoid this pyramiding effect of the GET. Eliminating this exemption will have devastating effects on the construction industry and result in higher cost to the public since the added cost will be tacked on to the cost of the project. I believe that at a time when construction activity in the State of Hawaii has stagnated leaving many construction workers unemployed, we should be avoiding, not adding costs that dampen construction activity.

While we understand that the state is faced with a large budget deficit and must find ways to balance the budget for the coming biennium we do not believe that eliminating the tax exemption currently available to general contractors is prudent or wise planning. For public works projects, the added cost to contractors will simply be passed on to the State. The added revenue collected from eliminating or reducing the exemption would simply pay for the added cost of the project, which makes little sense.

For private projects, removing this exemption for contractors will increase project costs, potentially shelving otherwise viable construction projects. Construction, one of the recognized key economic drivers of growth, would then be stymied at a time when the State could least afford it.

Should it be absolutely necessary to suspend the exemption, we agree that the tax should not apply to signed contracts that cannot pass on the increased tax, however we recommend that the implementation date be changed to "**contracts entered into after December 31, 2011**" to give contractors sufficient time to modify any bids submitted prior to the effective date of the bill that have not yet matured into contracts.

I believe that the alternative to increase the GET is also inadvisable. An increase in the general excise tax will have to be passed on to the consumer in the form of a price increase. Although the proposed HB793 provides for increases in items like the standard deductions on Hawaii income taxes, these deductions only apply to individual tax returns and not business tax returns. We urge the committee to seek other avenues to balance the State budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



LATE

April 6, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE SENATOR DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF
THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBJECT: H.B. 793, HD1 PROPOSED SD1 RELATING TO TAXATION.

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, April 6, 2011

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Auditorium

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

Rons Construction Corporation **strongly opposes** the passage of H.B.793, HD 1 Proposed SD1.

The provision to suspend the exemption for contractors in incremental steps from January 1, 2012 to June 15, 2015, is unfair as it will result in a general contractor paying state general excise taxes (GET) on taxes paid by subcontractors and subcontractors paying GET on taxes paid by its sub-subcontractors and so on. This exemption was in place to avoid this pyramiding effect of the GET. Eliminating this exemption will have devastating effects on the construction industry and result in higher cost to the public since the added cost will be tacked on to the cost of the project. I believe that at a time when construction activity in the State of Hawaii has stagnated leaving many construction workers unemployed, we should be avoiding, not adding costs that dampen construction activity.

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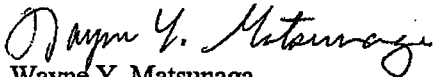
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APRIL 6, 2011

I believe that the alternative to increase the GET is also inadvisable. An increase in the general excise tax will have to be passed on to the consumer in the form of a price increase. Although the proposed HB793 provides for increases in items like the standard deductions on Hawaii income taxes, these deductions only apply to individual tax returns and not business tax returns. We urge the committee to seek other avenues to balance the State budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Sincerely,



Wayne Y. Matsunaga
Executive Vice President and General Manager



Maui 202 Lalo Street • Kahului, HI. 96732-2924
Phone: (808) 877-3902 • Fax: (808) 871-6828
Service Dept: (808) 877-4040 • Fax: (808) 873-6199
Oahu 2265 Hoonee Place • Honolulu, HI. 96819
Phone: (808) 841-2112 • Fax: (808) 847-1991

April 6, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE SENATOR DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBJECT: H.B. 793, HD1 PROPOSED SD1 RELATING TO TAXATION.

LATE

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, April 6, 2011
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: Auditorium

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

Dorvin D. Leis Co., Inc. **strongly opposes** the passage of H.B.793, HD I Proposed SD1.

The provision to suspend the exemption for contractors in incremental steps from January 1, 2012 to June 15, 2015, is unfair as it will result in a general contractor paying state general excise taxes (GET) on taxes paid by subcontractors and subcontractors paying GET on taxes paid by its sub-subcontractors and so on. This exemption was in place to avoid this pyramiding effect of the GET. Eliminating this exemption will have devastating effects on the construction industry and result in higher cost to the public since the added cost will be tacked on to the cost of the project. I believe that at a time when construction activity in the State of Hawaii has stagnated leaving many construction workers unemployed, we should be avoiding, not adding costs that dampen construction activity.

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PLUMBING • HEATING • AIR CONDITIONING • VENTILATION • SHEET METAL • FIRE SPRINKLERS • INDUSTRIAL PIPING
DOMESTIC SOLAR HOT WATER HEATING • SOLAR AIR CONDITIONING • COGENERATION • ELECTRICAL • INSTRUMENTATION

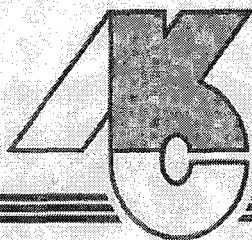


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Phone: (808) 877-3902 • Fax: (808) 871-6828
Service Dept: (808) 877-4040 • Fax: (808) 873-6199
Oahu 2265 Hoonee Place • Honolulu, HI. 96819
Phone: (808) 841-2112 • Fax: (808) 847-1991

I believe that the alternative to increase the GET is also inadvisable. An increase in the general excise tax will have to be passed on to the consumer in the form of a price increase. Although the proposed HB793 provides for increases in items like the standard deductions on Hawaii income taxes, these deductions only apply to individual tax returns and not business tax returns. We urge the committee to seek other avenues to balance the State budget.

Thank you for considering our concerns on the above measure.

Stephen T. Leis,
President



ALBERT C.
KOBAYASHI, INC.
GENERAL CONTRACTORS

Gentry Business Park • 94-535 Uke'e Street
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797 • Phone (808) 671-6460 • FAX 676-5832 • Lic. #ABC-07819

LATE

April 6, 2011

Dear Senator Ige and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

Albert C. Kobayashi, Inc. opposes HB793, Proposed SD1 that seeks to suspend subcontractor deductions. Please note that the subcontractor deduction is not an exemption and that general or prime contractors can deduct the taxes already paid by their subcontractors and sub-subs from their General Excise Tax Liability. This provision is in the tax code to prevent the pyramiding that was unfair to everyone, especially to the general contractors who paid taxes on taxes. In the case of home building, the ultimate consumer or home owner would be faced with the increased costs of pyramiding. Please allow the subcontractor deduction to remain.

The proposal for an increase in the General Excise Tax is also objectionable. If you remove the subcontractor deduction and you impose an increase in the General Excise Tax, it would be extremely difficult to maintain my business.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views with you.

Sincerely,

Russell Young
President

LATE



KAI HAWAII
STRUCTURAL & FORENSIC ENGINEERS

Ken K. Hayashida, P.E.
Michael P. Hunnemann, P.E.

April 5, 2011

The Honorable David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Ways and Means Committee
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

WAM Hearing Date: April 6, 2011, 9:30 am State Capitol Auditorium

Subject: OPPOSE as written, House Bill 793 SD1 Relating to Taxation; Section 3
Amending Chapter 237, Hawaii Revised Statutes to temporarily suspend exemption from January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015 for 1) Amounts deducted from the gross income received by contractors as described under section 237-13 (3) (B)

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Committee Members,

On behalf of the more than 800 architect members and other allied design professionals of The American Institute of Architects (AIA), AIA Hawaii State Council, I am writing to OPPOSE HB 793 SD1 on Taxation whose provisions aim to suspend key exemptions currently afforded to significant design and construction efforts in Hawaii, among other key business areas across the state. AIA Hawaii previously opposed similar provisions contained in then HB 799 HD1 for similar reasons.

The provision within HB 793 SD1 to remove the exemption currently afforded to "contractors" as defined in the Hawaii Revised Statutes (Section 237-13 (03) (B) (i)) will specifically cause an adverse effect on our members, allied engineers and Hawaii construction firms, a majority of whom are small businesses in Hawaii. This measure will have a significantly broad and negative effect on our State's overall economy as we all know the importance of design and construction in stimulating economic growth and creating needed jobs.

While this measure is proposed to extract additional revenues to address the state's fiscal crisis, it is especially key to note that elimination of this specific exemption and others would come at a bad time as Hawaii's economy struggles to come back from the devastation of economic recession. Eliminating the general excise exemptions for temporary gain may have a significantly dire consequence over the long term.

Moreover, the overall impact on the design and construction industry would be very large, because of the well documented "pyramid effect." A gross receipts tax, without key exemptions in place, has a well known escalating effect that creates an extra layer of taxation at each stage of the product and service life cycle. For the design and construction industry this leads to dramatically higher costs for housing, commercial and industrial structures built for Hawaii businesses, state and city governments and residential homeowners. Hawaii citizens already struggle with one of the highest costs for construction and housing in the nation.

We encourage you to seek more economically neutral ways of taxing businesses, and urge you to look deeper at long-term solutions for creating greater efficiencies within the government. This bill has the serious potential of reducing business in a time when Hawaii business needs stimulation. We urge opposition as currently written.

Sincerely,

Ken Hayashida, P.E.
KAI Hawaii, Inc.



LATE

April 6, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE SENATOR DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBJECT: H.B. 793, HD1 PROPOSED SD1 RELATING TO TAXATION.

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, April 6, 2011
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: Auditorium

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

Pioneer Contracting Co., Ltd. **strongly opposes** the passage of H.B.793, HD I Proposed SD1.

The provision to suspend the exemption for contractors in incremental steps from January 1, 2012 to June 15, 2015, is unfair as it will result in a general contractor paying state general excise taxes (GET) on taxes paid by subcontractors and subcontractors paying GET on taxes paid by its sub-subcontractors and so on. This exemption was in place to avoid this pyramiding effect of the GET. Eliminating this exemption will have devastating effects on the construction industry and result in higher cost to the public since the added cost will be tacked on to the cost of the project. I believe that at a time when construction activity in the State of Hawaii has stagnated leaving many construction workers unemployed, we should be avoiding, not adding costs that dampen construction activity.

While we understand that the state is faced with a large budget deficit and must find ways to balance the budget for the coming biennium we do not believe that eliminating the tax exemption currently available to general contractors is prudent or wise planning. For public works projects, the added cost to contractors will simply be passed on to the State. The added revenue collected from eliminating or reducing the exemption would simply pay for the added cost of the project, which makes little sense.

For private projects, removing this exemption for contractors will increase project costs, potentially shelving otherwise viable construction projects. Construction, one of the recognized key economic drivers of growth, would then be stymied at a time when the State could least afford it.

Should it be absolutely necessary to suspend the exemption, we agree that the tax should not apply to signed contracts that cannot pass on the increased tax, however we recommend that the implementation date be changed to "**contracts entered into after December 31, 2011**" to give contractors sufficient time to modify any bids submitted prior to the effective date of the bill that have not yet matured into contracts.

I believe that the alternative to increase the GET is also inadvisable. An increase in the general excise tax will have to be passed on to the consumer in the form of a price increase. Although the proposed HB793 provides for increases in items like the standard deductions on Hawaii income taxes, these deductions only apply to individual tax returns and not business tax returns. We urge the committee to seek other avenues to balance the State budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Sincerely,

Andrew Ng

930 KILANI AVENUE/WAHIAWA/HAWAII 96786/PH. (808) 622-4161/FAX (808) 621-0523

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LATE

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96753

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abc@akamaibusiness.com

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April 5, 2011

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Oppose HB739 - Relating to Taxation; General Excise Tax (GET)

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I, Stacie Thorlakson, President of Akamai Business Corporation, submit opposing testimony on HB739 and any other attempt to raise the general excise tax!

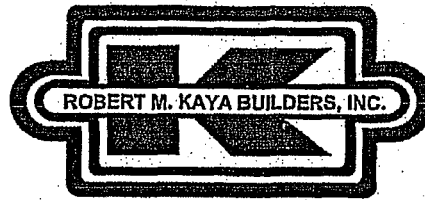
Many business owners are facing challenging times, with the increase cost of rent, payroll, health insurance and taxes? On Maui, our small businesses are closing due to the cost of staying in business. Now, during difficult economic times, the government wants to increase GET? Businesses do not need this additional tax burden!

I respectfully request that instead on increasing taxes, let's work together and find other alternatives to fix the budget deficit rather than always taxing businesses, which in turn inflates the cost for the consumer.

We all need to make sacrifices in this economic downturn, may government do the same!

Sincerely,

Stacie Thorlakson, President



LATE



525 Kokea Street, Bldg. B-3 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 • Phone: (808) 845-6477 • Fax: (808) 845-6471 • E-mail: rmkaya@hawaii.rm.com
Building and Improvement Specialist Since 1937
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April 5, 2011

To: Senator David Ige
Ways and Means Committee

Re: HB793, Proposed SD1, Relating to Taxation

Dear Senator Ige and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Scott Higa of Robert M. Kaya Builders, Inc. and I am opposed to HB793, Proposed SD1 that seeks to suspend subcontractor deductions. Please note that the subcontractor deduction is not an exemption and that general or prime contractors can deduct the taxes already paid by their subcontractors and sub-subs from their General Excise Tax Liability. This provision is in the tax code to prevent the pyramiding that was unfair to everyone, especially to the general contractors who paid taxes on taxes. In the case of home building, the ultimate consumer or home owner would be faced with the increased costs of pyramiding. Please allow the subcontractor deduction to remain.

The proposal for an increase in the General Excise Tax is also objectionable. If you remove the subcontractor deduction and you impose an increase in the General Excise Tax, it would be extremely difficult to maintain my business.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views with you.

Respectfully yours,

ROBERT M. KAYA BUILDERS, INC.


Scott I. Higa, President



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA
Executive Director
Tel: 808.543.0011
Fax: 808.528.0922

NORA A. NOMURA
Deputy Executive Director
Tel: 808.543.0003
Fax: 808.528.0922

DEREK M. MIZUNO
Deputy Executive Director
Tel: 808.543.0055
Fax: 808.523.6879

LATE

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
April 6, 2011

H.B. 793, S.D. 1 – Relating to Taxation

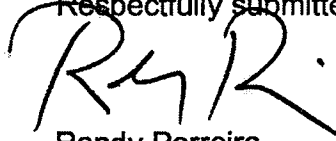
The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions and temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET).

Although we understand the concerns being raised about the impact of a temporary increase to the GET, the GET reaches the broadest base in our tax code and assures a steady revenue stream for the State. As written, the Senate draft of H.B. 793 has the potential to result in an overall reduction of taxes paid by low and middle-income earners. The Senate has taken a bold and responsible step by proposing a comprehensive and sustainable alternative to addressing the State's significant revenue shortfall. A combination of both a suspension of certain GET exemptions and a modest, temporary increase must be considered and fully vetted. A piecemeal approach to address our revenue and budget concerns is shortsighted and will only function as a temporary solution to a much larger problem.

Passage of this legislation will ensure a greater likelihood that the Legislature will not have to continually re-visit revenue generating concerns every year. We implore the Legislature to review and consider all revenue generating legislation together, as a dynamic solution, rather than as individual taxes targeted on specific segments of the population. A package of comprehensive changes which includes this legislation is critical and necessary.

We strongly support the intent of the proposed language in H.B. 793, S.D.1 and respectfully request the Committee to pass the measure.

Respectfully submitted,


Randy Perreira
Executive Director

LATE



TESTIMONY
April 6, 2011

Contact: Frances Nuar, Policy Analyst
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii
(office) 808-591-9193
frances@grassrootinstitute.org

www.GrassrootInstitute.org
[facebook.com/GrassrootInstitute](https://www.facebook.com/GrassrootInstitute)
Twitter: @GrassrootHawaii

TESTIMONY ON HB 793 REGARDING RAISING THE GE TAX

By Frances Nuar, Policy Analyst at the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

Grassroot Institute of Hawaii is strongly opposed to House Bill 793 which proposes to increase the GE tax by 1 percent and suspend tax exemptions. Raising the GE tax in a deflated economy will only hinder economic growth, and will significantly impact the cost of living in Hawaii.

Raising taxes as a means of funding out of control spending is not a solution, but a quick fix that will not bode well long-term for the state of Hawaii.

Grassroot Institute of Hawaii urges Governor Abercrombie to keep his campaign promise to not raise taxes, and urges legislators to seek innovative solutions and maximize efficiency to solve the fiscal crisis at hand.

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii is an independent, non-partisan think tank based in Honolulu. The Institute's mission is to achieve a freer and more prosperous Hawaii through the principles of free markets, individual liberty and limited, more accountable government.

###

April 6, 2011

LATE

Senator David Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii

Re: House Bill 793, Proposed Senate Draft 1

Dear Chair Ige and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee:

CTIA – The Wireless Association®¹ respectfully opposes HB 793, proposed Senate draft 1, which is now under consideration in the Senate. Specifically, CTIA opposes the current provision which states “Gross receipts of home service providers acting as service carriers providing mobile telecommunications services to other home service providers as described under Section 2376-13 (6) (d).”

The legislation before your committee will have an adverse financial impact on Hawaii residents, businesses and tourists by creating a new tax on roaming charges. New taxes on wireless services increase the cost to your constituents and thereby discourage the use of those services, including broadband services, which state and federal legislators are determined to universally deploy.

In order to prevent the double taxation of wireless consumers, the U.S. Congress passed the Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act (P.L. 106-252), which ensures that wireless calls are taxed according to the caller’s “place-of-primary use”, the customers residential or business street address as defined in the Act. HB 799 would ignore the federal sourcing act mandate and unfairly impose a new tax on calls made by residents of Hawaii and also on calls made by out-of-state wireless customers roaming within Hawaii.

CTIA appreciates the revenue needs for the state during these difficult economic times but Hawaii consumers already contribute significantly to the state through a public service communications tax, a general excise tax, a public utility communications fee and a wireless 911 tax.

As we work to ensure that all Americans have access to state-of-the-art communications capabilities, we need to be mindful that tax policies should promote, rather than impair, our ability to deliver that access. If you have any questions or

¹ CTIA – The Wireless Association® is the international organization of the wireless communications industry for both wireless carriers and manufacturers. Membership in the organization covers Commercial Mobile Radio Service (“CMRS”) providers and manufacturers, including cellular, Advanced Wireless Service, 700 MHz, broadband PCS, and ESMR, as well as providers and manufacturers of wireless data services and products.



wish to discuss, please contact James Schuler at JSchuler@CTIA.org or 202-736-3200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Dane Snowden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

K. Dane Snowden
Vice President
External & State Affairs



LATE

April 6, 2011

Dear Senator Ige and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

Brenda K. Clary, VP/Treasurer
R.Clary Builders, Inc.

I am opposed to HB793, Proposed SD1 that seeks to suspend subcontractor deductions. Please note that the subcontractor deduction is not an exemption and that general or prime contractors can deduct the taxes already paid by their subcontractors and sub-subs from their General Excise Tax Liability. This provision is in the tax code to prevent the pyramiding that was unfair to everyone, especially to the general contractors who paid taxes on taxes. In the case of home building, the ultimate consumer or home owner would be faced with the increased costs of pyramiding. Please allow the subcontractor deduction to remain.

The proposal for an increase in the General Excise Tax is also objectionable. If you remove the subcontractor deduction and you impose an increase in the General Excise Tax, it would be extremely difficult to maintain our business.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views with you.

Sincerely,


Brenda K. Clary, VP/Treasurer
R.Clary Builders, Inc.



ARCHITECTS HAWAII

LATE

HONOLULU
American Savings Bank Tower,
Suite 200
1001 Bishop Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone (808) 523-9636
FAX (808) 521-3280

The Honorable David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Ways and Means Committee
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

WAM Hearing Date: April 6, 2011, 9:30 am State Capitol Auditorium

Subject: OPPOSE as written, House Bill 793 SD1 Relating to Taxation; Section 3

Amending Chapter 237, Hawaii Revised Statutes to temporarily suspend exemption from January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015 for 1) Amounts deducted from the gross income received by contractors as described under section 237-13 (3) (B)

On behalf of the more than 800 architect members and other allied design professionals of The American Institute of Architects (AIA), AIA Hawaii State Council, I am writing to OPPOSE HB 793 SD1 on Taxation whose provisions aim to suspend key exemptions currently afforded to significant design and construction efforts in Hawaii, among other key business areas across the state. AIA Hawaii previously opposed similar provisions contained in then HB 799 HD1 for similar reasons.

The provision within HB 793 SD1 to remove the exemption currently afforded to "contractors" as defined in the Hawaii Revised Statutes (Section 237-13 (03) (B) (i) will specifically cause an adverse effect on our members, allied engineers and Hawaii construction firms, a majority of whom are small businesses in Hawaii. This measure will have a significantly broad and negative effect on our State's overall economy as we all know the importance of design and construction in stimulating economic growth and creating needed jobs.

While this measure is proposed to extract additional revenues to address the state's fiscal crisis, it is especially key to note that elimination of this specific exemption and others would come at a bad time as Hawaii's economy struggles to come back from the devastation of economic recession. Eliminating the general excise exemptions for temporary gain may have a significantly dire consequence over the long term.

Moreover, the overall impact on the design and construction industry would be very large, because of the well documented "pyramid effect." A gross receipts tax, without key exemptions in place, has a well known escalating effect that creates an extra layer of taxation at each stage of the product and service life cycle. For the design and construction industry this leads to dramatically higher costs for housing, commercial and industrial structures built for Hawaii businesses, state and city governments and residential homeowners. Hawaii citizens already struggle with one of the highest costs for construction and housing in the nation.

We encourage you to seek more economically neutral ways of taxing businesses, and urge you to look deeper at long-term solutions for creating greater efficiencies within the government. This bill has the serious potential of reducing business in a time when Hawaii business needs stimulation. We urge opposition as currently written.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Ganotisi', written over a horizontal line.

Joel Ganotisi

OPPOSE: House Bill 793 SD1

JoAnn Farnsworth, Farnsworth Consulting

Senator David Ige, Chair
Senate Ways and Means Committee
April 6, 2011
9:30 am

LATE

Subject: **HB: 793 Proposed SD1: Relating to Taxation**

As a long term advocate for the children of Hawaii and a member of One Voice for Hawaii's Children (www.onevoiceforchildren.net), an alliance of organizations and individuals committed to the development of an effective and equitably funded early childhood system of support that gives all young children the opportunity to arrive at kindergarten safe, healthy and ready to succeed, I firmly believe that all children deserve safe and supportive environments that meet their needs as they grow and develop.

Essential to the accomplishment of this mission is that the government has the necessary resources to maintain the strong elements of this system that currently exist and begin to rebuild those that have been lost.

We support finding new revenue vehicles, knowing that these are difficult choices. None the less our administration needs our financial support and the resources to create the vision of Hawaii that many of us voted for.

We request that in your decision of the most appropriate vehicle; be it a sugar tax, removal of some GET exemptions or a temporary tax increase, that it be done in the least regressive way possible; ensuring that families with young children, who are among our lowest income bracket, are minimally impacted.

Mahalo for your consideration.

JoAnn Farnsworth
jfarnsworth@hawaii.rr.com
895-6097



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FAX: (808) 521-9767

P.O. BOX 1559, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96806

CITY MILL COMPANY, LTD.



HOME IMPROVEMENT CENTER

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Committee on Labor & Public Employment

LATE

HEARING Wednesday, April 6, 2011
 9:30 am
 Conference Room 211
 State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: HB793, Proposed SD1, Relating to Taxation

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Elise Burkart and I am the Chief Financial Officer of City Mill Company. We are a kama'aina company with eight home improvement stores on Oahu and nearly 500 dedicated team members. We have served Hawaii for over 112 years.

City Mill Co., Ltd strongly opposes the Proposed SD1 to HB793, which suspends from January 1, 2012, to June 30, 2015, the exemptions for certain persons and certain amounts of gross income or proceeds from the general excise and use tax and requires the payment of the tax at a graduated rate. For two years: doubles the standard deduction amounts, the tax credit for household and dependent care services necessary for gainful employment, the income tax credit for low-income household renters, and the refundable food/excise tax credit; increases the capital goods excise tax credit, general excise and use tax rates, and various public service company tax rates by one per cent; appropriates funds to expedite implementation.

Particularly onerous are:

Part II, Suspends exemptions and imposes the GET at 4%. The impact will be increased ocean and air transportation, fuel, and construction costs for my company, and will result in job losses in these affected industries.

Part VIII, Section 12: Increases the GET from 4% to 5%. This increase will raise operating costs for business and the cost of living for my employees and my consumers.

Just as we hope to begin emerging from the deep recession of the last three years, we are faced with back-to-back fuel surcharges on everything we ship into the island, the potential burden of even higher shipping rates due to the proposed bill, and the burden of the additional tax directly on our business.

A 1% increase in the GET rate would result in an additional direct tax on our business of \$656,000; that's equal to total wage and benefits for 22 team members or about 4.5% of our workforce.

BUILDING MATERIALS FROM FOUNDATION TO ROOF • LUMBER • BUILDERS' AND GENERAL HARDWARE • PLUMBING
• KITCHEN CABINETS • ROOFING • PAINT • FLOOR AND WALL COVERINGS • ELECTRICAL FIXTURES
• CEMENT AND MASONRY • GLASS • LOUVRES • LAMINATED PLASTICS • HAND AND POWER TOOLS
• VANITIES • CEILING FANS • FURNITURE/DECOR • HOUSEWARES

Considering the fragile state of Hawaii's economy, increasing business costs will impede any planned expansion and job creation. A tax increase in a recession is just not good economic sense.

We urge you NOT to pass HB793, Proposed SD1. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elise Burkart', written in a cursive style.

Elise Burkart, CFO

KKK ALUMINUM AND GLASS INC.

April 6, 2011

LATE

TO: THE HONORABLE SENATOR DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBJECT: H.B. 793, HD1 PROPOSED SD1 RELATING TO TAXATION.

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, April 6, 2011

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Auditorium

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

KKK ALUMINUM AND GLASS INC., **strongly opposes** the passage of H.B.793, HD 1 Proposed SD1.

The provision to suspend the exemption for contractors in incremental steps from January 1, 2012 to June 15, 2015, is unfair as it will result in a general contractor paying state general excise taxes (GET) on taxes paid by subcontractors and subcontractors paying GET on taxes paid by its sub-subcontractors and so on. This exemption was in place to avoid this pyramiding effect of the GET. Eliminating this exemption will have devastating effects on the construction industry and result in higher cost to the public since the added cost will be tacked on to the cost of the project. I believe that at a time when construction activity in the State of Hawaii has stagnated leaving many construction workers unemployed, we should be avoiding, not adding costs that dampen construction activity.

While we understand that the state is faced with a large budget deficit and must find ways to balance the budget for the coming biennium we do not believe that eliminating the tax exemption currently available to general contractors is prudent or wise planning. For public works projects, the added cost to contractors will simply be passed on to the State. The added revenue collected from eliminating or reducing the exemption would simply pay for the added cost of the project, which makes little sense.

For private projects, removing this exemption for contractors will increase project costs, potentially shelving otherwise viable construction projects. Construction, one of the recognized key economic drivers of growth, would then be stymied at a time when the State could least afford it.

Should it be absolutely necessary to suspend the exemption, we agree that the tax should not apply to signed contracts that cannot pass on the increased tax, however we recommend that the implementation date be changed to "contracts entered into after December 31, 2011" to give contractors sufficient time to modify any bids submitted prior to the effective date of the bill that have not yet matured into contracts.

I believe that the alternative to increase the GET is also inadvisable. An increase in the general excise tax will have to be passed on to the consumer in the form of a price increase. Although the proposed HB793 provides for increases in items like the standard deductions on Hawaii income taxes, these deductions only apply to individual tax returns and not business tax returns. We urge the committee to seek other avenues to balance the State budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

JERRY KASHIMOTO, PRESIDENT

LATE

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Committee on Labor & Public Employment

HEARING Wednesday, April 6, 2011
 9:30 am
 Conference Room 211
 State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: HB793, Proposed SD1, Relating to Taxation

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brendan Barry, President of Bead It! Inc. We have three retail stores on Oahu, my wife and I have struggled to build our business over the last 18 years and currently employ 17 workers. We are proud to have made this far and do our best to pay our staff a living wage and provide excellent benefits.

Bead It! In strongly opposes the Proposed SD1 to HB793, which suspends from January 1, 2012, to June 30, 2015, the exemptions for certain persons and certain amounts of gross income or proceeds from the general excise and use tax and requires the payment of the tax at a graduated rate. For two years: doubles the standard deduction amounts, the tax credit for household and dependent care services necessary for gainful employment, the income tax credit for low-income household renters, and the refundable food/excise tax credit; increases the capital goods excise tax credit, general excise and use tax rates, and various public service company tax rates by one per cent; appropriates funds to expedite implementation.

Particularly onerous are:

Part II, Suspends exemptions and imposes the GET at 4%. The impact will be increased ocean and air transportation, fuel, and construction costs for my company, and will result in job losses in these affected industries.

Part VIII, Section 12: Increases the GET from 4% to 5%. This increase will raise operating costs for business and the cost of living for my employees and my consumers.

We have just hired 4 new employees at the beginning of April and are getting ready to sign a lease extension at one of locations. Not because business is that much better already but because we are hopeful for increasing business throughout 2011 and beyond. Please don't try to balance the budgets on the backs of Hawaii small family businesses and those that they employ. This has the potential pulling the rug out from under the fragile recovery that we are basing our business decisions on. I ask you, should we as a business not try to hire and grow our business from the lows we have experienced in the last few years. Should we stay small and get smaller decreasing tax base with every contraction we are forced to make because of the burdens imposed on our employees and customers by HB793.

Considering the fragile state of Hawaii's economy, increasing business costs will impede any planned expansion and job creation. A tax increase in a recession is just not good economic sense.

We urge you NOT to pass HB793, Proposed SD1. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Brendan Barry
Brendan Barry, President



A SEN PLEX COMPANY

LATE

OAHU PLUMBING & SHEET METAL, LTD.

938 Kohou St. • P.O. Box 17010 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 • Telephone (808) 848-0111 • Fax (808) 848-0210

April 6, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE SENATOR DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBJECT: H.B. 793, HDI PROPOSED SDI RELATING TO TAXATION.

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, April 6, 2011
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: Auditorium

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

Oahu Plumbing & Sheetmetal, Ltd. strongly opposes the passage of H.B. 793, HDI Proposed SDI.

The provision to suspend the exemption for contractors in incremental steps from January 1, 2012 to June 15, 2015, is unfair as it will result in a general contractor paying state general excise taxes (GET) on taxes paid by subcontractors and subcontractors paying GET on taxes paid by its sub-subcontractors and so on. This exemption was in place to avoid this pyramiding effect of the GET. Eliminating this exemption will have devastating effects on the construction industry and result in higher cost to the public since the added cost will be tacked on to the cost of the project. I believe that at a time when construction activity in the State of Hawaii has stagnated leaving many construction workers unemployed, we should be avoiding, not adding costs that dampen construction activity.

While we understand that the state is faced with a large budget deficit and must find ways to balance the budget for the coming biennium we do not believe that eliminating the tax exemption currently available to general contractors is prudent or wise planning. For public works projects, the added cost to contractors will simply be passed on to the State. The added revenue collected from eliminating or reducing the exemption would simply pay for the added cost of the project, which makes little sense.

For private projects, removing this exemption for contractors will increase project costs, potentially shelving otherwise viable construction projects. Construction, one of the recognized key economic drivers of growth, would then be stymied at a time when the State could least afford it.

Should it be absolutely necessary to suspend the exemption, we agree that the tax should not apply to signed contracts that cannot pass on the increased tax, however we recommend that the implementation date be changed to "contracts entered into after December 31, 2011" to give contractors sufficient time to modify any bids submitted prior to the effective date of the bill that have not yet matured into contracts.

I believe that the alternative to increase the GET is also inadvisable. An increase in the general excise tax will have to be passed on to the consumer in the form of a price increase. Although the proposed HB793 provides for increases in items like the standard deductions on Hawaii income taxes, these deductions only apply to individual tax returns and not business tax returns. We urge the committee to seek other avenues to balance the State budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Very truly yours

Norman K. Tada
Executive Vice President



LATE

April, 5, 2011

Foundations Hawaii, Inc.
2116 Lauwiliwili St 107F
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

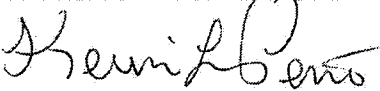
Dear Senator Ige and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

I am opposed to HB793, Proposed SD1 that seeks to suspend subcontractor deductions. Please note that the subcontractor deduction is not an exemption and that general or prime contractors can deduct the taxes already paid by their subcontractors and sub-subs from their General Excise Tax Liability. This provision is in the tax code to prevent the pyramiding that was unfair to everyone, especially to the general contractors who paid taxes on taxes. In the case of home building, the ultimate consumer or home owner would be faced with the increased costs of pyramiding. Please allow the subcontractor deduction to remain.

The proposal for an increase in the General Excise Tax is also objectionable. If you remove the subcontractor deduction and you impose an increase in the General Excise Tax, it would be extremely difficult to maintain my business.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views with you.

Sincerely,
Foundations Hawaii, Inc.


Kevin L. Pena
President



LATE

HASEKO CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT GROUP, INC.

BC-31085

Subject: Testimony on HB793, Proposed SD1 Relating to Taxation

Dear Senator Ige and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

Lawrence Chang, CPA, Haseko Construction Management Group, Inc

I am opposed to HB793, Proposed SD1 that seeks to suspend subcontractor deductions. Please note that the subcontractor deduction is not an exemption and that general or prime contractors can deduct the taxes already paid by their subcontractors and sub-subs from their General Excise Tax Liability. This provision is in the tax code to prevent the pyramiding that was unfair to everyone, especially to the general contractors who paid taxes on taxes. In the case of home building, the ultimate consumer or home owner would be faced with the increased costs of pyramiding. Please allow the subcontractor deduction to remain. The proposal for an increase in the General Excise Tax is also objectionable. If you remove the subcontractor deduction and you impose an increase in the General Excise Tax, it would be extremely difficult to maintain my business. Thank you for the opportunity to share my views with you.



LATE

HASEKO CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT GROUP, INC.

BC-31085

Subject: Testimony on HB793, Proposed SD1 Relating to Taxation

Dear Senator Ige and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

Adam Sutton, Haseko Construction Management Group, Inc.

I am opposed to HB793, Proposed SD1 that seeks to suspend subcontractor deductions. Please note that the subcontractor deduction is not an exemption and that general or prime contractors can deduct the taxes already paid by their subcontractors and sub-subs from their General Excise Tax Liability. This provision is in the tax code to prevent the pyramiding that was unfair to everyone, especially to the general contractors who paid taxes on taxes. In the case of home building, the ultimate consumer or home owner would be faced with the increased costs of pyramiding. Please allow the subcontractor deduction to remain. The proposal for an increase in the General Excise Tax is also objectionable. If you remove the subcontractor deduction and you impose an increase in the General Excise Tax, it would be extremely difficult to maintain my business. Thank you for the opportunity to share my views with you.




LATE

HASEKO CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT GROUP, INC.

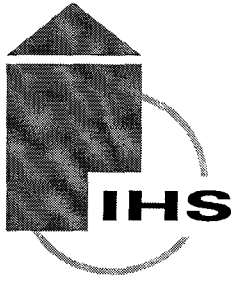
BC-31085

Subject: Testimony on HB793, Proposed SD1 Relating to Taxation

Dear Senator Ige and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

Tsumoto Sagawa, Haseko Construction Management Group, Inc. 

I am opposed to HB793, Proposed SD1 that seeks to suspend subcontractor deductions. Please note that the subcontractor deduction is not an exemption and that general or prime contractors can deduct the taxes already paid by their subcontractors and sub-subs from their General Excise Tax Liability. This provision is in the tax code to prevent the pyramiding that was unfair to everyone, especially to the general contractors who paid taxes on taxes. In the case of home building, the ultimate consumer or home owner would be faced with the increased costs of pyramiding. Please allow the subcontractor deduction to remain. The proposal for an increase in the General Excise Tax is also objectionable. If you remove the subcontractor deduction and you impose an increase in the General Excise Tax, it would be extremely difficult to maintain my business. Thank you for the opportunity to share my views with you.



THE INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICES, INC.

Planting seeds of self-sufficiency

L A T E

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB793

Locations:
Business Office
Women & Families' Shelter
546 Ka'aahi Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
Phone 808.447.2800
Bus Phone 808.845.7150
Fax 808.845.7190

Men's Shelter
350 Sumner Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
Phone 808.447.2900
Fax 808.537.2697

www.IHS-hawaii.org

IHS, The Institute for Human Services, Inc. stands in support of HB793 which proposes a temporary increase in General Excise Tax of 1%. Government services have been cut to the point that our human services safety net is dangerously frayed. When education, early childhood, youth, senior and behavioral health services have been cut so severely that there are sure to be future costs to be paid that considerably more than what will be saved, it's time to stop and collectively share in re-investing in the health and welfare of our community.

Basics of business always calls for an analysis of consequences for cutting back against what is to be gained by thoughtful capitalization. In this particular case, it should be obvious that further cuts in spending will threaten viability rather than helping us through a period.

The increase in taxes proposed will be partially paid by visitors to our state and the 1% increase is still lower than many states in our nation.

We support the legislature's efforts to reinvest in Hawaii with a temporary 1% increase in General Excise Tax.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Board of Directors:

K. James Steiner, Jr., Esq.
President

M.E. Reich
Vice President

Aileen Utterdyke
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Kelli Abe Trifonovitch
Secretary

Edmund Aczon
Christopher Benjamin
Ann R. Botticelli
William G. Chung
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Dick Dubanoski
Ian Fitz-Patrick
Stacey C.G. Hee, Esq.
Michael T. Jones
Violet Loo
Curt Nakamura
Bruce M. Nakaoka
Patsy K. Saiki, Esq.
Alvin Sakamoto
Frank B. Smith
Sean G. Tadaki
Lynne T. Unemori
Scott D. Williams
Sylvia Yuen, Ph.D.

The Rev. Msgr. Terrence Watanabe
Member Emeritus

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 6:39 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: john@ballethawaii.org
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Parkinson
Organization: Ballet Hawaii
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: john@ballethawaii.org
Submitted on: 4/6/2011

Comments:

Dear Senators and Representatives,

A 5% tax increase on the gross income of the theaters we rent from will be a hardship for them and a burden on Ballet Hawaii.

Ticket sales in this economy are difficult at best and raising the tax on our activities can only be sustained by raising prices.

As a non profit we do a lot with a little. Continuing to slice away at our "little" is not in our communities best interest.

Please help keep the arts alive and sustainable and remove the words : "theaters, opera houses, or any other place at which amusements are offered to the public." lines 1 thru 8 on page 37.

The Performing Arts struggle to survive and this tax would hurt all of us.

Nonprofit Organizations Are Good Corporate Citizens

1. Nonprofit organizations DO currently pay General Excise Tax (GET) on gross revenues derived from fundraisers .
2. Nonprofit organizations DO currently pay unrelated business income tax (UBIT) on for-profit ventures.
3. Nonprofit organizations pay approximately \$1.45 billion in wages that DO get taxed on the federal and state level.[1]
4. Nonprofit organizations receive much of their funding through fundraising. Most households support fundraising activities using income earned from wages or consultant fees.[2] All such income IS already subject to both federal and state taxes.

[1] Nonprofit organizations are the fifth largest nonagricultural employer in Hawaii. "Hawai'i Nonprofits, 2006, One Fabric, Different Threads," Hawaii Community Foundation.

**Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.
Auditorium
Hawaii State Capitol**

Re: HB 793, Proposed SD1: Relating to Taxation

Testimony by Marilyn M. Niwao, J.D., CPA

Dear Honorable Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I am a certified public accountant (CPA) and an attorney licensed in the State of Hawaii. I am also a principal of Niwao & Roberts, CPAs, a P.C., located on Maui, and have practiced public accounting in Hawaii for over 32 years. In addition, I am a former Commissioner of the Hawaii State Tax Review Commission.

Our Maui CPA firm is strongly against the proposal to temporarily increase the Hawaii General Excise tax by one percent and would prefer reducing government spending because of the fragile Hawaii economy and struggling Hawaii small businesses and individuals who would be impacted by the tax increase. If given no other choice, we would prefer removal of certain exemptions, although we are concerned about the impact of removal of the subcontractor exemption for the weak Hawaii construction industry. (Note: the subcontractor exemption and the sublease exemption should probably be replaced by a tax at the .5% "wholesale rate", similar to what happens for retail businesses, rather than be subject to tax at the 4% rate.) In general, however, there have been too many Hawaii General Excise tax exemptions added over the years, and they have added greatly to the complexity of the current Hawaii General Excise tax laws.

Please do not increase the child care tax credit, double the renter's credit, and double the food credit amount as these efforts at tax relief will come at too steep a cost for struggling small businesses. In addition, having too many exemptions, deductions, and credits unnecessarily complicates the tax system, increases the cost of compliance, and decreases the voluntary payment of taxes.

As a CPA in public practice, I have not seen such a bad economy that has left both individual and business finances in shambles, where everyone is struggling. For those small businesses that still remain, many of the business owners are withdrawing huge sums from their personal retirement plans early in order to fund their businesses because the banks no longer will loan them money. Since these business owners have withdrawn money and report income from their retirement plans, their economic plight has not yet

been seen by economists and tax department personnel who are primarily focused on revenues from tax collection. If these businesses are subject to additional taxes, they may not survive because demand for their goods and services will likely decrease, and their cost of doing business will increase. Loss of these small businesses will translate to loss of jobs and a cycle of decreasing tax collections in the future.

Given the present scenario, what would I suggest? The State needs to make a concerted effort to insure tax compliance by all those who owe taxes by:

1. Enacting tax laws to insure collection of Hawaii General Excise taxes and income taxes from out-of-state individuals and businesses that do business in Hawaii.

- a. Since Hawaii's General Excise tax is unique in the nation, many out-of-state individuals and businesses are not aware of taxes due on gross revenue from Hawaii service income, rental income, and other types of income. Out-of-state individuals and businesses need to be educated so that the need to pay Hawaii taxes in order to do business in Hawaii becomes obvious.

For example, a recent study by the Hawaii Association of Public Accountants showed that for out-of-state CPAs who obtained a temporary permit to practice in Hawaii in 2007 and 2008, 70% of their out-of-state CPA firms did not obtain a Hawaii General Excise tax license which is necessary to pay Hawaii General Excise taxes. These are out-of-state CPAs who are advising Hawaii businesses on Hawaii taxes to pay. Obviously, if the out-of-state CPA advisor does not know about their own Hawaii General Excise tax and income tax obligations, how do the businesses that rely upon their advice learn about Hawaii taxes? A Hawaii General Excise tax license number should be required for all licensees who do business in Hawaii, among other measures to be taken.

- b. Educate out-of-state rental property owners about the Hawaii General Excise taxes. The current law focuses on finding noncompliance only when the real estate rental property is sold, and by the time the property owner finds out that they owe hundreds of thousands of dollars in past due Hawaii General excise taxes, the State has difficulty in collecting the taxes due. The law should focus on making current property owners compliant with paying the Hawaii General Excise taxes so there is no build-up of past due taxes.
- c. Collecting taxes from out-of-state individuals and businesses who owe Hawaii taxes will help Hawaii and will not hurt Hawaii resident taxpayers.

2. Increase enforcement efforts by the State Department of Taxation.

- a. The Tax Department needs to focus more on enforcement efforts that would result in higher tax collections. In addition to efforts to collect on unreported

income, there should be more audit efforts to collect the use tax from businesses that have outsourced services.

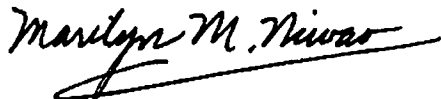
- b. The State Department of Taxation should be provided adequate personnel to carry out its enforcement functions
- c. If there is lax tax enforcement, more people will not comply with Hawaii's tax laws and less taxes will be collected

The Hawaii General Excise tax, unlike the retail sales tax imposed by other states, is a very efficient tax that should be kept low because of its very broad base (i.e., it taxes services and rental income, for example, not only retail sales like other states) and its pyramiding effect which compounds the effective tax rate that the consumer really pays.

For all the reasons stated above and more, please do not raise the Hawaii General Excise taxes for all businesses in this fragile economy.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,



Marilyn M. Niwao, J.D., CPA
President

From: Austin Yamamoto [botonyexpert@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:17 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: All Senators; All Reps
Subject: GE TAX BILL

I work at the Tax Office (Collections). I didn't read the bill but these are some of my suggestions:

1. Make GET personally liable like Withholding taxes for Corp/LLC's.
2. When GET are paid at the register make it where the taxes are automatically taken and paid to the state.
3. Tax insurance commissions at the regular 4.5% and not .15%
4. Make every business have to get a Tax Clearance to do business in HI every year.
5. Make it law that if a business doesn't pay it's taxes they need to post a sign on their window saying so. (Tax debt is public information)
6. Do not allow a disabled person to pay at the .5% tax rate especially if they make more than a certain amount. If they can make \$200,000 in rental income I don't believe they should be taxed at .5% only.
7. On Part V of form G45/49 it says a tp may be subject to a 10% penalty if not filled out. Many tp's do not fill this out and Never get charged a penalty. Remove or follow through.

I believe these suggestions would help in closing the budget. If a corporation is legally responsible for GET their is a bigger chance that they will pay. I see many corporations current with their withholding taxes but their GET is never paid. I believe if a consumer knows a business is charging a tax and keeping that tax they would rather shop at a business that pays the tax back to the state.

Thank you,
Austin

From: Madeline Neely [madeline_neely@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 3:55 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: madeline_neely@yahoo.com
Subject: re: HB793 SD1

April 6, 2011

Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair
Honorable Members of the Ways and Means Committee

Re: HB793 SD1 Temporary GET increase and tax exemptions

Aloha! My name is Madeline McCabe Neely and I am in support of the proposed HB793 SD1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax and provides for food and other tax credits.

The combination of a temporary increase to the GET and suspensions of exemptions is a more fair across the board and responsible way to address Hawaii's deficit.

I believe this legislation, as a whole, is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services, as well as, to keep the intent of the framers of the 1950, Hawaii State Constitutional Convention and which was re-instated in the 1978 Constitutional amendments, relating to the contractually guaranteed and obligation of the State of Hawaii to, "not diminish or impair the benefits already accrued" by public sector retirees.

Mahalo for allowing me to make comment.

Respectfully submitted,
Madeline McCabe Neely
Kaaawa, Hi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:11 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: gwen.kondo@doh.hawaii.gov
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: gwen kondo
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: gwen.kondo@doh.hawaii.gov
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

I support the increase in the general excise tax if it will help support HGEA bargaining unit 13 workers and public school teachers and other state workers maintain their income and have some sense of stability. I would like to see the GET increase to help balance the budget instead of using state workers earned income to balance the budget.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:12 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: janiceywchang@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Janice Chang
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: janiceywchang@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:
Taxes should be everyone's responsibility as everyone benefits from it.

Hearing 4/6/11 @
9:30 am
State Capitol
Rm. 211

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2011
(NT)

LATE

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits.

A combination of a modest, temporary increase to the GET and suspension of exemptions is a fair and responsible way to address our state's deficit. The proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, as written, should be part of a more comprehensive package of legislation to address the State's significant budget shortfall. A piecemeal approach to address our revenue and budget concerns is shortsighted and will only function as a temporary solution to a much larger problem. Without comprehensive and significant changes, the Legislature will once again need to revisit the budget shortfall.

This legislation, as a whole, is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services. A package of comprehensive changes, where we all give a little, is critical.

I urge passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Thank you,

Nora Takeuchi

Signature

Nora Takeuchi

Print Name

Additional Comments:

How about a lottery to cover our deficit. Stop using state employees to address state's deficit. We have done enough.

LATE

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2011

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits. A combination of a modest, temporary increase to the GET and suspension of exemptions is a fair and responsible way to address our state's deficit. The proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, as written, should be part of a more comprehensive package of legislation to address the State's significant budget shortfall. A piecemeal approach to address our revenue and budget concerns is shortsighted and will only function as a temporary solution to a much larger problem. Without comprehensive and significant changes, the Legislature will once again need to revisit the budget shortfall.

This legislation, as a whole, is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services. A package of comprehensive changes, where we all give a little, is critical. I urge passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Thank you,

Vicki L. Taylor, MSCP, CSAC, NCC, LMHC

Vicki L Taylor

Additional Comments: I support this bill, because we can't keep taking from the poor who can not defend themselves.

LATE

ROBERT S. KOIKE
3343 PahoA Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816
(808) 732-6783

e-mail rskoike@hawaii.rr.com
April 5, 2011

Testimony for HB793, Relating to Taxation
Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Senate
April 6, 2011

I support HB793, relating to taxation.

I am a retired State Department of Taxation staff officer. Among other things, it was my duty to provide the tax revenue impact on all tax proposals for use by the Administration and the Legislature. As such, I have some experience in evaluating tax proposals.

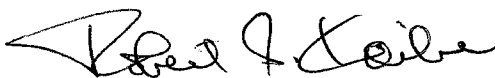
HB793 provides for an expedient and straight forward means to generate the much needed tax revenues that the legislature is seeking presently. A one percent increase in the general excise and use tax (GET) would generate an approximate \$500 million annually. However, previous studies suggest that 30% of this amount would be exported, that is the tax burden would fall on nonresidents. Therefore, a good portion of this tax increase will not fall on residents of this state. Also, this proposal includes increases to various tax credits. Some of these tax credits were created to address the regressive nature of the GET. However, I would like to suggest a flat \$50 per resident tax credit instead. As this proposal will be suspended on June 30, 2015, all existing laws and tax credits can then revert to its original form without further amendments. Further, this amount would mean more to a low income earner than a high income taxpayer.

This proposal also suspends various exemptions to the GET. Taken altogether, the resulting tax burden to resident taxpayers would be an approximate increase in taxes of approximately \$300 million, or about \$300 per resident. This is would be much preferable to a pension tax. Based on information from various sources, the net increase in tax revenues would be an estimated \$500 million.

Finally, I would like to suggest that this committee not act on the provision involving changes to the standard deduction amounts. I think this issue could be more appropriately dealt with in considering a change in the net income tax rates in its totality.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify today.

Sincerely yours,



Robert S. Koike

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:42 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: kunimurae001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Elaine Kunimura
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: kunimurae001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

LATE

Testimony for HB793, Relating to Taxation
Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Senate
April 6, 2011

I support HB793, relating to taxation.

HB793 provides for an expedient and straight forward means to generate the much needed tax revenues that the legislature is seeking presently. A one percent increase in the general excise and use tax (GET) would generate an approximate \$500 million annually. However, previous studies suggest that 30% of this amount would be exported, that is the tax burden would fall on nonresidents. Therefore, a good portion of this tax increase will not fall on residents of this state. Also, this proposal includes increases to various tax credits. Some of these tax credits were created to address the regressive nature of the GET. This proposal also suspends various exemptions to the GET.

Taken altogether, the resulting tax burden to resident taxpayers would be an approximate increase in taxes of about \$300 per resident. This is much preferable to a pension tax. This proposal should provide the much needed funds without reverting to the many and diverse tax revenue generating proposals now being considered by the Legislature.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify today.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Uyeda
HGEA RETIREE
OAHU CHAPTER BOARD DIRECTOR

LATE

From: Kathleen V. Phillips [phillipsa008@hawaiiintel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:53 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793, SD1 - Proposed Wednesday, April 6, 2011, State Capitol Auditorium, 9:30 am.

Importance: High

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Senator David Y. Ige, Chair

Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2011, State Capitol Auditorium, 9:30 am.

Re: HB 793, SD1 Proposed

Dear Chair Ige and Committee Members:

My name is Kathleen V. Phillips and I reside in Pukalani, Maui, HI. I am retired and must live on a fixed income. My husband has had 4 heart attacks and has 6 stents. He also recently had a full knee replacement. Last year our medical share costs was over \$12,000. As seniors get older it gets financially more difficult.

I strongly support HB 793, SD1 Proposed because:

- This bill is a **fair way** to generate the tax revenues necessary to solve our State budget deficit.
- This bill provides for a way for **all** citizens to **equally share** in a way to help the State address the budget deficit.
- This bill generates sufficient revenues, **without the need for tax increases that unfairly targets seniors, state and county workers.**
- The tax credits included in this bill will lower the taxes for lower and moderate income people who would otherwise be severely impacted by this tax increase.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Kathleen V. Phillips

3297 Old Haleakala Hwy.

Makawao, HI 96768

Phone: 808-572-7226

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:05 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: thomas@eturbonews.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Juergen Steinmetz
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: thomas@eturbonews.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

I am supporting the increase as a necessary and smart measure that would equal out this increase to everyone, including visitors and residents.

The amount is small and will not have a major impact. Other tax increases would have a worse result.

The increase is acceptable considering the current budget shortfall.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:06 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: thomas@hawaiitourismassociation.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Juergen Steinmetz
Organization: Hawaii Tourism Association
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: thomas@hawaiitourismassociation.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

I am supporting the increase as a necessary and smart measure that would equal out this increase to everyone, including visitors and residents.

The amount is small and will not have a major impact. Other tax increases would have a worse result.

The increase is acceptable considering the current budget shortfall.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:22 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: dstedesco@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Donald Tedesco
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: dstedesco@gmail.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

I am a senior on a fixed income and welcome the approach to distribute the tax burden to all people. I was against the taxing of pensions and hope the Senate will act to pass HB 793 because it is fair and just. If the pension bill passes, I have to leave my island paradise home and return to the mainland. If it's substituted with a general increase in the GET, I can continue to live here and of course, support my current home state.

Thank you for being creative and thinking about fairness and equity when it comes to taxation.

Donald Tedescvo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 6:20 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: piper_am@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alan Miyamura
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: piper_am@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

I support the proposed increase in the general excise tax and eliminating the exemptions from certain businesses enumerated. I believe this measure is fair as it ultimately affects everyone and not just a few. Additionally, I do not believe raising the GET will negatively impact the state's economy, as there has not been an increase in over a decade, and Hawaii is one of the lowest GETs compared to other states. People continue to purchase gas even though it has reached levels above \$4.00 a gallon. It doesn't even make the news anymore. Raising the GET by 1% is realistic in these times. I am confident consumers will do their share and accept this new rate that may be passed on by merchants. It is only fair.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my position.

Sincerely,

Alan Miyamura

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 6:31 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: macnuts@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael Hayley
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: macnuts@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

Please raise the GTE so we can all share in our states burden.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 6:31 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: brownm009@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Colonel Mark L. Brown, USA (Ret.)
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: brownm009@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

My wife and I are residents of Kaneohe who are represented in the Senate by Senator Jill N. Tokuda.

I served for 30 years as a Department of Defense (DoD) finance officer and comptroller. My final assignment was as the Comptroller, U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM), Camp Smith, Hawaii 1999-2006 where we managed Billions of dollars in federal funds as well as Trillions of dollars in other national defense assets (ships, aircraft, bases, etc.).

Based upon my financial experience and education (BBA in Finance, MBA in Management & MS in National Resources Policy), I wish to compliment the State Legislature for the fiscal merits and logic of HB 793 (as revised as of 1 April 2011).

Clearly, HB 793 recognizes the seriousness, gravity and high cost of the State's financial shortfall and budgetary needs. HB 793 substantially meets these needs in a way that is uniformly fair and consistent with the public interest.

I therefore recommend the State Senate adopt HB 793 and discard other taxation alternatives that are economically harmful. The most significant of these is the proposed pension tax.

Hawaii is one of only ten states that do not tax pension and social security income. Like for other resort States such as Florida (which has no income tax), this tax advantage encourages tens of thousands of retirees to settle here in their golden years. Retirees are very beneficial economically because they bring their assets and pension income to their new home and usually do not compete for employment. In effect, they are long-term tourists who boost local job opportunities and business income substantially across-the-board. Taxing pensions would discourage future retirees from settling in Hawaii and cause some current retired residents to leave for lower cost-of-living alternatives on the Mainland.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

LATE

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Senator David Y. Ige, Chair

Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2011, State Capitol Auditorium, 9:30 am.

Re: HB 793, SD1 Proposed

Chair Ige and Committee Members.

Aloha Chair Ige and Committee Members:

My name is Elaine C. Goldberg and I live in Kapolei. I retired from Tripler due to the terrible cutbacks to civilian employees since the war began. Because I was a CSCR/Offset employee and having left Federal Service for a while my retirement was reduced \$350.00/month at age 62. I work part-time at a state facility, however seek fulltime in my profession as a Radiology Technologist; however the job market is overloaded with techs and because of age discrimination am unable to find employment.

I assist my Mom financially for necessities. I find it difficult to survive because: **1. the tremendous increases in cost of living 2. Lack of raises in my monthly retirement checks 3. Increase in Federal Taxes and 4. because of the tremendous increase to civilian employees cost for health services: Federal Contracts with our providers have taken away benefits.** In my case, I have Federal BC/BS – one of the better preferred provider plans. **There is no coverage for dental or vision in this plan.**

Writing this makes me feel sad as I worked extremely hard for 22 years of Federal Service and 30 years of non-Federal Service. Hawaii no longer seems to be the Sunshine State as every day I see a black-cloud over my head and other retirees here in Hawaii.

I support HB 793, SD1 :

- This is a fair and achievable way to increase tax funds to help the State's deficit.
- This is an equitable way for all Hawaii citizens to solve the financial shortages.
- Seniors will not be unfairly targeted – this is important for reasons I personally experience. I am sure many other seniors will be grateful.
- Tax credits for financially challenged retirees and seniors (moderate and lower income) persons will be a tremendous financial aid to our elder population.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Aloha,

Elaine C. Goldberg

Kapolei

From: bernadette lincoln [berniebeet@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:35 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: GET BILL

To Whom It May Concern,
Please, I strongly support HB793,SDI.

Sincerely,
BLLincoln-dot state employee
unit 3.

From: Henry Kaiser [aikeakaiser@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:35 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793, SD1 Testimony

I strongly support HB 793, SD1.

LATE

From: J [jisa1398@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:32 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB793 SD1

I strongly support HB793,SD1.

Aloha, James Isa
Hilo 96720

From: Owen [tamanahah001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:39 PM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: H.B. 793, S.D. 1

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii

The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2011

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits.

A combination of a modest, temporary increase to the GET and suspension of exemptions is a fair and responsible way to address our state's deficit. The proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, as written, should be part of a more comprehensive package of legislation to address the State's significant budget shortfall. A piecemeal approach to address our revenue and budget concerns is shortsighted and will only function as a temporary solution to a much larger problem. Without comprehensive and significant changes, the Legislature will once again need to revisit the budget shortfall.

This legislation, as a whole, is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services. A package of comprehensive changes, where we all give a little, is critical.

I urge passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Thank you,

Owen Tamanaha

From: Angie Hashimoto [ahash94@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:40 PM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: RE: I strongly support HB 793, SD1



Angie Hashimoto, HGEA - Unit 03 member
email: ahash94@gmail.com
phone: 808-247-1852

From: Keli Volz [kelivolz@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:41 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793, SD1

Please support HB 793, SD1 as I think it's ridiculous that our legislature is afraid to increase our sales tax to 5% for fear of losing tourist. Most states pay way more than 5%. It's time to stop making our local people pay for everything and not our tourist yet we through so much money into our Tourism Authority to bring more tourist here and line the pockets of the hotel and big business owners who pay no state tax. Enough is enough!

From: dm [chelco25@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:44 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793, SD1

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 793, SD1

Dawn Maekawa-Matsushima
4/5/11

Connected by MOTOBLUR™ on T-Mobile

From: Walt Niemczura [walt@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:50 PM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: Testimony in support of HB 793, SD1

Members of the 2011 Hawaii State Legislature,

I am a public employee working at the University of Hawaii.

I fully understand the financial condition we find ourselves facing over the next two years and I am concerned for the welfare of the educational system, both lower and higher education, of our state.

In 2009 we received a pay cut over two years to help the state. While it hurt my wife and I felt it was necessary for the good of Hawaii. We also accept (my wife is also an employee of the state) that we will probably be asked to take a cut over the coming biennium. While it will be difficult we are willing to do our part again.

An increase in any taxes is never welcome but desperate times require desperate measures. I support HB 793, SD1 and the temporary increase in the state's general excise tax. I truly believe this measure is necessary for the good of all the citizens of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Walt Niemczura

From: Ann Brandman [abrandman@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:51 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Support

Aloha.

I strongly support HB 793, SD1 , which would temporarily suspend tax exemptions and temporarily impose a modest GET increase.

Thank you,
Ann Brandman

From: Donna [tamashird004@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:55 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony for HB 793, SD1

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
April 6, 2011

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits.

A combination of a modest, temporary increase to the GET and suspension of exemptions is a fair and responsible way to address our state's deficit. The proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, as written, should be part of a more comprehensive package of legislation to address the State's significant budget shortfall. A piecemeal approach to address our revenue and budget concerns is shortsighted and will only function as a temporary solution to a much larger problem. Without comprehensive and significant changes, the Legislature will once again need to revisit the budget shortfall.

This legislation, as a whole, is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services. A package of comprehensive changes, where we all give a little, is critical.

I urge passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Thank you,

Donna Tamashiro

LATE

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Senator David Y. Ige, Chair

Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2011, State Capitol Auditorium, 9:30 am.

Re: HB 793, SD1 Proposed

Chair Ige and Committee Members. My name is Jenny Howard and I am a retired teacher with 38+ years with the State of Hawai'i. I support HB 793, SD1 Proposed because

-This bill is a fair way to generate the tax revenues necessary to solve our State budget deficit by distributing the increased tax obligation among all taxpayers in the community.

-As projected, it will generate sufficient revenue to maintain State services without the need for steep tax increases that unfairly target senior citizens in our community.

-The tax credits included in this bill will lower the taxes for lower and moderate income people who would otherwise be severely impacted by this tax increase.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Jenny Howard

From: bernie miranda [bernie5miranda@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:58 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793

I strongly support HB 793, SD1.
Thank you

From: Vicki Kajioka [vkajioka@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:59 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strongly Support HB 793, SD1

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support HB 793, SD1 and I urge passage of H.B. 793, SD1.

Thank you,
Vicki Kajioka

Vicki Kajioka
email: Vicki Kajioka <vkajioka@hawaii.rr.com>
Phone: (808) 286-0555

From: Charles Shumaker [chajushu@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:35 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793, SD1

I strongly support HB 793, SD1.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Lynell Yuu [lynell_yuu@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:05 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: I strongly support HB 793, SD1

I strongly support HB 793, SD1

Lynell Yuu
60 No. Kuakini St., #4A
Honolulu HI 96817

From: Neil Kajioka [wckajnt@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:13 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strongly Support HB 793, SD1

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support HB 793, SD1 and I urge passage of H.B. 793, SD1.

Thank you,
Neil Kajioka

Neil Kajioka
email: Neil Kajioka <wckajnt@yahoo.com>
Phone: (808) 28-3331

From: m n [mmnn88@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:22 PM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: Testimony for HB 793, SD1

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2011

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits.

A combination of a modest, temporary increase to the GET and suspension of exemptions is a fair and responsible way to address our state's deficit. The proposed H. B. 793, S. D. 1, as written, should be part of a more comprehensive package of legislation to address the State's significant budget shortfall. A piecemeal approach to address our revenue and budget concerns is shortsighted and will only function as a temporary solution to a much larger problem. Without comprehensive and significant changes, the Legislature will once again need to revisit the budget shortfall.

This legislation, as a whole, is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services. A package of comprehensive changes, where we all give a little, is critical.

I urge passage of H. B. 793, S. D. 1.

Thank you.

Miyoke Ng

LATE

From: Gaye Hayashida [gayehayashida@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:27 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793, SD1

I strongly support HB 793, SD1. Please pass this bill.

Thank you.

Gaye Hayashida
70 Waiaka Lane, #38-103
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Galen Kuba [gmkuba@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:27 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793, SD1

I strongly support HB793, SD1. Rather than putting the deficit burden on government workers, retirees, etc., the cost of a GET increase will be borne by all. In my mind this is the best and fairest way to address our budget shortfall until we turn the economic corner for the better.

LATE

Date: 4/5/11

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair

To Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and the honorable members of the Senate Committee Ways and Means: I appreciate the opportunity to present this testimony in support of HB 793.

Increasing the excise tax by 1% provides funding for all the state programs that were cut and will end furloughs for government workers. For example, we have no vector control department to deal with an outbreak of dengue fever in Pearl City; we have a small number of food inspectors to deal with an army of restaurants that requires inspection; we have limited workers to process licenses for civil unions & marriages. If this bill fails to pass, we are leaving ourselves open to more unpleasant surprises. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and end this budget crisis. There are no more areas in government to cut.

Sincerely,

Lyn Pyle, RN

From: Betty Tsukiyama [tsukiyamb001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:31 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB793, SD 1

Importance: High

I strongly support HB793, SD1.

Let's all share in this. What's 1% increase or even more if need be.

Betty M. Tsukiyama

From: Glen [gmatsuo001@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:31 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB793, SD1

I strongly support HB793, SD1.

A modest increase in the GET and suspension of exemptions is a fair way to address the state's deficit. The proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, as written, should be part of a more comprehensive plan to address the state's budget shortfall.

This legislation is needed very much in order to preserve State and County programs and services.

Thank you for your support.

Glen Matsuo

LATE

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Senator David Y. Ige, Chair

Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2011, State Capitol Auditorium, 9:30 am.

Re: HB 793, SD1 Proposed

Chair Ige and Committee Members. My name is Jack Katahira and I am retired and live in the Alewa Heights area. I support HB 793, SD1 Proposed because it will provide the State with the revenue to make an impact on the projected deficit that the State faces in the next two years. The other bills taxing the retiree pensions and eliminating the Medicare reimbursements will unfairly target the retirees to shoulder the deficit burden. The tax credits included in this bill will negate the impact for lower and moderate income people who would otherwise be severely impacted by this tax increase.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Jack Katahira

1331 B Mamalu Street

Honolulu, HI 96817

From: Cheryl Ku'uilei [joelypop@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:40 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Support for HB 793, SD1

April 5, 2011

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits.

A combination of a modest, temporary increase to the GET and suspension of exemptions is a fair and responsible way to address our state's deficit. The proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, as written, should be part of a more comprehensive package of legislation to address the State's significant budget shortfall. A piecemeal approach to address our revenue and budget concerns is shortsighted and will only function as a temporary solution to a much larger problem. Without comprehensive and significant changes, the Legislature will once again need to revisit the budget shortfall.

This legislation, as a whole, is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services. A package of comprehensive changes, where we all give a little, is critical.

I urge passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Thank you,

Cheryl Reeser
Makawao, Hawaii

From: Louise Storm [storml001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:49 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: GET bill

Dear Ways & Means.

I support the GET increase AND the elimination of exemptions for special groups. Let's quit playing favorites and let everybody participate in saving our State's economy.

Louise Storm
Liliha-Puunui area

From: Lani Duponte [winalava@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:43 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793 SD1

Aloha,

I have never submitted testimony on a house bill before but I truly believe that by raising the GET tax rate in this State is the thing to do. It is the most fair...everybody pays. Lots of tourist come to Hawaii and pay the lowest tax on goods and services. All the Hawaii residents that travel to Las Vegas many times a year pay over 7%.

Thank you, Lani DuPonte, P.O. Box 932, Wailuku, Maui 96793.

From: Kathy Wade [kathywade929@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:54 PM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: HB793, SD1

I strongly support HB 793, SD1

Please consider supporting a modest GET increase to keep state services open.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Wade
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: H3 [hamada.helen@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:57 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: All Senators; All Reps
Subject: HB793, SD1

A tax increase would certainly help in decreasing the gap so programs to assist the needy could make living less traumatic for the homeless, especially the children who have no choice.

For some it's paying the rent for the roof over their head OR having something to eat for their family members. Choices are getting harder to make to just survive.

Just an additional 1% would make a tremendous difference ... And everyone will share the "burden" of closing the gap. The government worker will share the burden.

Helen Hamada

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jennifer Shishido [shishidon001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:00 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB793 SD1 on April 6 at 9:30 am

Dear Senators:

As a state employee who has seen the devastation of budget cuts over the past few years to CORE functions such as health and safety, I strongly support HB793 SD1.

Elevator inspections are backlogged over three (3) years!!!! Boiler inspections over two (2) years - Just last month there was a BOILER EXPLOSION at Campbell and all because the state doesn't adequately fund core services. This is penny wise and pound foolish because there will soon be a serious accident and the state will be sued for \$millions. In the meantime, businesses cannot open because there is no occupancy permit because there are not enough inspectors to do the inspections and all the clerks who used to process the permits have been laid off. Permits are backlogged over 5 months! No permits means no construction, no construction means loss of revenue to the state and to the businesses.

Worker health and safety inspections are down by over 67% because over 2/3 of the staff have been cut - either through deletion of vacant positions or through reduction-in-force. As a result, businesses are putting their workers at risk because there is little or no enforcement. When the playing field is not level because the state shirks its responsibilities - businesses resort to cutting corners to stay competitive. At what cost - LIVES and BROKEN FAMILIES! Workers compensation costs will rise, premiums will increase and we'll again wonder why we didn't prevent this from happening.

Share the burden - you all say - well state workers have been working overtime for free, getting stressed beyond belief, had their pay reduced due to furloughs, have taken a lot of abuse from the public who keeps demanding the services yet calls the workers all kinds of names -- and no one seems to care that they're killing the golden goose. So let's really share the burden -- raise the GET tax and eliminate the exemptions.

Thank you

Jennifer Shishido
2931 Robert Place
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Jennifer Barretto [pbjbarretto@msn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:09 PM
To: All Senators; All Reps; WAM Testimony
Subject: Strongly Support HB 793, SD1

We strongly support HB 793, SD1.

Thank you,
Jennifer and Patrick Barretto
Kapa'a, HI

From: Julie Ebanez [julieebanez@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:13 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793, SD1

I strongly support HB 793, SD1 because I believe it is not fair to target County and State workers to make up the budget shortfalls. I am the only one working in my household, and with furlough and paying the family medical plan, my salary is not enough to make ends meet. It would be better if the increase is felt among the whole population--not just us government workers.

Thank You, Julie Ebanez

From: Tony [tonyearles@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:13 PM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: I and my family support HB 793, SD1

Given the state of our fiscal situation, I strongly support HB 793, SD1, where we ALL share the expenses!

-Tony Earles
Kahului, HI

From: George A Casen [casen@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:14 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793, SD 1

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2011
Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

George Casen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:16 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: majorfootballfan@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Aaron Chow
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: majorfootballfan@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1. A combination of a modest, temporary increase to the general excise tax, and suspension of exemptions is a fair and responsible way to address our state's deficit and should be a part of a more comprehensive package of legislation to address the State's significant budget shortfall. A piecemeal approach to address our revenue and budget concerns will only function as a temporary solution to a much larger problem. Without comprehensive and significant changes, the Legislature would need to revisit the budget shortfall. If the general public at large does not support a one percent increase in the general excise tax, a compromise of a one-half percent increase in the general excise tax should be considered.

This legislation, as a whole, is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services. A package of comprehensive changes, where everyone gives a little, is critical. Therefore, I urge the passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Mahalo.

From: R.C. Ertekin [ertekin@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:22 PM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: HB 793, SD1

I strongly support HB 793, SD1
Thank you.
R.C. Ertekin

From: Joy Mokulehua [joychristy72@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:24 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT FOR H.B. 793, S.D. 1

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
April 6, 2011

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits.

A combination of a modest, temporary increase to the GET and suspension of exemptions is a fair and responsible way to address our state's deficit. The proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, as written, should be part of a more comprehensive package of legislation to address the State's significant budget shortfall. A piecemeal approach to address our revenue and budget concerns is shortsighted and will only function as a temporary solution to a much larger problem. Without comprehensive and significant changes, the Legislature will once again need to revisit the budget shortfall.

This legislation, as a whole, is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services. A package of comprehensive changes, where we all give a little, is critical.

I urge passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Thank you,

Victor and Joy Mokulehua

From: Roberta Williams [bobbiewilli@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:30 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: In Support of HB793, SD1

I am writing in support of HB793, SD1 and am in favor of temporarily suspending tax exemptions and temporarily imposing a modest GET increase. For too long State and County workers have born the brunt of the states financial difficulties. It is time for the burden to be to shared with all citizens who live and work in Hawaii. With a global increase in the GET, all of us will be taxed equally. We can also no longer continue to provide tax credits as liberally as in the past. To temporarily suspend this at least affords the state respite and would also give those receiving the credits hope for the future. All sector of our community must help if we are to eventually stabilize our economy.

Speaking from personal experience as a state employee and who's husband is also a state employee, we have taken a double hit with furlough for the past 2 years. I can honestly say that each year I have watched my tax return gross income decline steadily and wondered, when would it stop. With the increase in cost of living, increases in medical costs, increases in gas prices and food, I really don't know how our family can continue to survive if more of the economic burden continues to be placed on State and County employees.

As a result of our shrinking income, I was forced to seek a second job to make ends meet. Then on March 31, 2011 I received notice of my second job being terminated when the Youth program I worked for lost their funding through DHS. Once again, we are forced to make choices between eating, paying mortgage or paying for electricity and gas. Hard choices which will become worse if the furlough continue.

Unfortunately, after 29 years as a State employee, I still needed a second job to makes our mortgage and to pay bills. I know that I am not alone when I say that we cannot continue to look at our state employees as the ONLY source of cuts.

Everyone in our community must bear the burden and a small temporary increase in the GET along with a temporary stop to tax exemptions may be the most equitable and fair way to do this.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB793, SD1

Roberta Williams

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:31 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: pwl962@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Patrick Lee
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: pwl962@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:
I support this measure

From: cynthia phillips/joe kanahuna [jocin@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:38 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: H.B. 793, S.D.1

THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE, STATE OF HAWAII
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, APRIL 6, 2011 at 9:30am in Conf. Rm. 211

CHAIR IGE, VICE CHAIR KIDANI, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE PROPOSED H.B. 793, S.D. 1, WHICH SUSPENDS CERTAIN GENERAL EXCISE TAX EXEMPTIONS, TEMPORARILY INCREASES THE GENERAL EXCISE AND USE TAX (GET), AND PROVIDES FOR FOOD AND OTHER TAX CREDITS.

A COMBINATION OF A MODEST, TEMPORARY INCREASE TO THE GET AND SUSPENSION OF EXEMPTIONS IS A FAIR AND RESPONSIBLE WAY TO ADDRESS OUR STATE'S DEFICIT. THE PROPOSED H.B. 793, S.D. 1, AS WRITTEN, SHOULD BE PART OF A MORE COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE OF LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS THE STATE'S SIGNIFICANT BUDGET SHORTFALL. A PIECEMEAL APPROACH TO ADDRESS OUR REVENUE AND BUDGET CONCERNS IS SHORTSIGHTED AND WILL ONLY FUNCTION AS A TEMPORARY SOLUTION TO A MUCH LARGER PROBLEM. WITHOUT COMPREHENSIVE AND SIGNIFICANT CHANGES, THE LEGISLATURE WILL ONCE AGAIN NEED TO REVISIT THE BUDGET SHORTFALL.

THIS LEGISLATION, AS A WHOLE, IS MUCH NEEDED TO PRESERVE STATE AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES. A PACKAGE OF COMPREHENSIVE CHANGES, WHERE WE ALL GIVE A LITTLE, IS CRITICAL.

I URGE PASSAGE OF H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

THANKING YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND YES VOTE.

SINCERELY,

CYNTHIA PHILLIPS & JOSEPH KANAHUNA

From: adriane aarona [naarona@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:17 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB793

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate Committee on Ways and Means
April 6, 2011

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits.

This legislation is needed to preserve crucial state and county government programs and services. Our roads need to be fixed and maintained. Our children need to be educated. Government services are needed to help our people with various needs - from our citizens who have lost their jobs and need assistance with unemployment services to those in business who need assistance in applying for licenses, obtaining permits, and paying their taxes.

I strongly urge passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Mahalo,
Adriane Aarona

From: ngans001@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:47 PM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: HB 793,SD1

Aloha All,

I strongly support HB 793,SD1.

Mahalo,

Jill Ngan (Maui)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:48 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: karenkmuraoka@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Karen Muraoka
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: karenkmuraoka@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits. It is a fair, equitable and responsible way to address our state's deficit where all residents participate in the solution of this problem. It is much needed and long overdue to preserve state and county government programs and services. A package of comprehensive changes, where we all give a little, is critical.

I urge passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Thank you,
Karen Muraoka
State of Hawaii Resident & Employee
HGEA Member

From: Linda Wong [leiahi@me.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:58 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: strong support for HB 793, SD1

I strongly support HB 793, SD1

Sent from my iPad
Linda Wong
leiahi@me.com

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2011

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

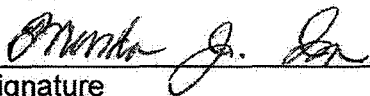
I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits.

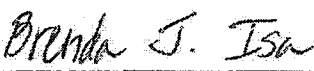
A combination of a modest, temporary increase to the GET and suspension of exemptions is a fair and responsible way to address our state's deficit. The proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, as written, should be part of a more comprehensive package of legislation to address the State's significant budget shortfall. A piecemeal approach to address our revenue and budget concerns is shortsighted and will only function as a temporary solution to a much larger problem. Without comprehensive and significant changes, the Legislature will once again need to revisit the budget shortfall.

This legislation, as a whole, is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services. A package of comprehensive changes, where we all give a little, is critical.

I urge passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Thank you,


Signature


Print Name

Additional Comments:

From: Carol Arikawa [carol.arikawa@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:30 PM
To: WAM Testimony

I support HB 793 SD1.
Sent from my iPhone

From: Kalani Mills [kalanimills@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:01 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB793 SB1

Aloha State Senate members,

My family and I live in Kona. We support this bill. We are willing to do our part.

Mahalo,
Kalani Mills

From: Gary Menino [garydm1@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:23 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony

I strongly support HB 793, SD1!

Gary D. Menino
440 Mohouli St.
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

LATE

From: GayAnn Kino [gmkjan22@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:21 PM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: HB 793, SD1

"I strongly support HB 793, SD1."

GayAnn Kino

From: Jerry & Susan Ogami-Van Camp [jsovc@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:38 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793, SD1

I strongly support HB 793, SD1.

Susan Ogami-Van Camp

LATE

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2011

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits.

A combination of a modest, temporary increase to the GET and suspension of exemptions is a fair and responsible way to address our state's deficit. The proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, as written, should be part of a more comprehensive package of legislation to address the State's significant budget shortfall. A piecemeal approach to address our revenue and budget concerns is shortsighted and will only function as a temporary solution to a much larger problem. Without comprehensive and significant changes, the Legislature will once again need to revisit the budget shortfall.

This legislation, as a whole, is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services. A package of comprehensive changes, where we all give a little, is critical.

I urge passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Thank you,

Signature

Print Name

Additional Comments:

From: Matthew S. LoPresti, Ph.D. [mlopresti@hpu.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:49 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony for GET increase, in favor

Dear Senators:

I support raising the GET tax by 25% because I support the state's constitutional obligation to education. I realize that the government we want and the government that we need costs money. A temporary tax increase is needed to pay for the state's obligations in education and other areas. If this the GET increase passes and furloughs are implemented for Teachers, for example, then we can avoid laying people off and worsening the economic condition of the state.

Please pass the GET increase for as long as it is needed. When the fiscal outlook is better the tax can go back to what it was. We all must make sacrifices and there is no greater way to equalize this sacrifice than to raise the GET.

Respectfully.

Matthew S. LoPresti, Ph.D.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:55 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: susankehaulani@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Susan Halvorsen
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: susankehaulani@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

I strongly support HB793! It will assist our economic recovery. We must all help by giving a little to sustain our State through these difficult times. The fact that HB793 is temporary and expires in 2 years allows us to trial and evaluate the proposed package and alter or discontinue when it expires.

Mahalo,
Susan Halvorsen

From: Alvin Hirabara [alvinhonolulu@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:56 PM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: In Support of H.B. 793, S.D. 1

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
April 6, 2011

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits.

A combination of a modest, temporary increase to the GET and suspension of exemptions is a fair and responsible way to address our state's deficit. The proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, as written, should be part of a more comprehensive package of legislation to address the State's significant budget shortfall. A piecemeal approach to address our revenue and budget concerns is shortsighted and will only function as a temporary solution to a much larger problem. Without comprehensive and significant changes, the Legislature will once again need to revisit the budget shortfall.

This legislation, as a whole, is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services. A package of comprehensive changes, where we all give a little, is critical.

I urge passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Thank you,

signed _____

Signature

Alvin Hirabara ____

Print Name

Additional Comments:

LATE

Regarding: HB793 SD1

**Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol Auditorium
9:30 AM
April 6, 2011**

Chairman Senator Ige ; Vice Chair, Senator Kidani and committee members:

My name is Linda Rich

I support HB 793 SD1 because I believe that it is necessary to increase state revenue in order to prevent further decreases in vital services to the citizens of Hawaii, especially the poor and those with mental illness and substance abuse disorders. Please increase the state's revenue and do not make further cuts to Hawaii's safety net.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

From: Frances Kakazu [hiilei7@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:04 PM
To: All Senators; WAM Testimony; All Reps
Subject: In Support of HB 793, SD 1

April 6, 2011

I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET) and provides for food and other tax credits.

A combination of a modest, temporary increase to the GET and suspension of exemptions is a fair and responsible way to address our state's deficit.

This legislation is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services.

It is most important that we all give a little.

I urge passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Thank you,

Frances S. Kakazu

From: Carrell, Jennifer Lynne [jcarrell@honolulu.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:09 PM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Attachments: HB793 - GET Increase[1].pdf

Yes I do support these bills
Jennifer-Lynne K. Carrell

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2011

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits.

A combination of a modest, temporary increase to the GET and suspension of exemptions is a fair and responsible way to address our state's deficit. The proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, as written, should be part of a more comprehensive package of legislation to address the State's significant budget shortfall. A piecemeal approach to address our revenue and budget concerns is shortsighted and will only function as a temporary solution to a much larger problem. Without comprehensive and significant changes, the Legislature will once again need to revisit the budget shortfall.

This legislation, as a whole, is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services. A package of comprehensive changes, where we all give a little, is critical.

I urge passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Thank you,

Signature

Print Name

Additional Comments:

From: gokazaki@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:09 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 493,SD1

Aloha,

I strongly support HB 793, SD1

Thank you,
Grant Okazaki

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2011

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits.

A combination of a modest, temporary increase to the GET and suspension of exemptions is a fair and responsible way to address our state's deficit. The proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, as written, should be part of a more comprehensive package of legislation to address the State's significant budget shortfall. A piecemeal approach to address our revenue and budget concerns is shortsighted and will only function as a temporary solution to a much larger problem. Without comprehensive and significant changes, the Legislature will once again need to revisit the budget shortfall.

This legislation, as a whole, is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services. A package of comprehensive changes, where we all give a little, is critical.

I urge passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Thank you,

Signature

Print Name

Additional Comments:

From: Carrell, Jennifer Lynne [jcarrell@honolulu.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:10 PM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Attachments: HB793 - GET Increase[1].pdf

Yes I do support these bills
Jennifer-Lynne Kealaokahinano Carrell

LATE

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2011

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits.

A combination of a modest, temporary increase to the GET and suspension of exemptions is a fair and responsible way to address our state's deficit. The proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, as written, should be part of a more comprehensive package of legislation to address the State's significant budget shortfall. A piecemeal approach to address our revenue and budget concerns is shortsighted and will only function as a temporary solution to a much larger problem. Without comprehensive and significant changes, the Legislature will once again need to revisit the budget shortfall.

This legislation, as a whole, is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services. A package of comprehensive changes, where we all give a little, is critical.

I urge passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Thank you,

 paul chun

Signature

 Paul Chun

Print Name

Additional Comments:

LATE

PAUL J. SCHWIND
2033 Nuuanu Avenue, Apt. 22-B
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
schwang1@hawaii.rr.com

April 6, 2011

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair, and Members
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 215
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

BY E-MAIL: sendige@capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Chair Ige and Members:

Re: H.B. 793 proposed S.D. 1 Relating to Taxation

I am a retired employee of the State of Hawaii (and also a retired attorney formerly in private practice). I receive benefits from my State pension and the State's health benefits plan supplemental to Medicare, which other measures before your Committee propose to either tax or reduce, respectively. I am testifying in **support** of House Bill No. 793 proposed S.D. 1 Relating to Taxation, specifically with regard to its proposed temporary increase in the General Excise Tax (GET) from 4 percent to 5 percent.

While balancing the State budget is a valid objective at any time, doing so in these difficult economic times disproportionately on the backs of retirees generally, and retired public employees in particular, is unjust and inequitable. By contrast, by far the fairest and most effective means to enhance State revenues is to enact an across-the-board increase in the GET. If all of us are to "uncross our arms" and "help paddle the canoe", an increase in the GET is the most sensible way to go, for the following reasons, among many:

- Though regressive and cumulative, the GET is arguably the most broadly based tax of general application, paid by all (or virtually all) residents and businesses in Hawaii.
- In addition, a substantial portion of the GET is "exportable" to visitors in Hawaii.
- With the proposed modest one percent increase in the GET, all residents and visitors will contribute toward the solution to the State's budget woes in proportion to their expenditures in the State economy. *Everyone* will get to paddle the canoe.
- As a practical matter, further budget-cutting and reduction of State programs is not a viable option to balance the budget, given the size of the revenue shortfalls that must be covered.
- An increase in the GET will enable the current Administration to begin to repair the wreckage left by the previous Administration, which decimated State programs essential to public health, safety and welfare through its wrong-headed, mean-spirited, ideologically-driven budget cuts.

Profitable private businesses, which are often the first to complain about tax increases, do not hesitate to raise prices to remain viable when their own costs increase and revenues decline. Government must have the courage to follow a similar "business model" when required to meet the public's need for services. Accordingly, your Committee is to be commended for hearing HB 793 proposed S.D. 1. I respectfully recommend and sincerely hope that your Committee will then **pass** the temporary increase in the GET as provided in this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views on this matter.

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2011

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

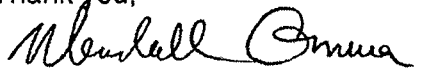
I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits.

A combination of a modest, temporary increase to the GET and suspension of exemptions is a fair and responsible way to address our state's deficit. The proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, as written, should be part of a more comprehensive package of legislation to address the State's significant budget shortfall. A piecemeal approach to address our revenue and budget concerns is shortsighted and will only function as a temporary solution to a much larger problem. Without comprehensive and significant changes, the Legislature will once again need to revisit the budget shortfall.

This legislation, as a whole, is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services. A package of comprehensive changes, where we all give a little, is critical.

I urge passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Thank you,



Signature

Wendall Omura

Print Name

Additional Comments:

TESTIMONY

LATE

Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, March 6, 2011
Conference Room 211
9:30 a.m.

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

I provide testimony in favor of HB793, SD1.

HB793, SD1:

Temporarily suspends from January 1, 2012, to June 30, 2015, the exemptions for certain persons and certain amounts of gross income or proceeds from the general excise and use tax and requires the payment of the tax; and

Temporarily increases from October 1, 2011, to September 30, 2013 the general excise and use tax and various public service company tax rates by one per cent. Temporarily provides food and other tax credits. Effective July 1, 2011; repealed June 30, 2015. (Proposed SD1)

While everyone says that the burden of State's budget shortfall should be shared by all, this bill makes it possible for ALL to be a part of the solution; including our tourists who should be contributing their share to preserve and protect our environment.

Let us also not forget that prices are based upon what the market will bear which has nothing to do with the tax rate. Besides having one of the lowest tax rates (on sales) in the country, we are the preferred destination of the NFL players who could play anywhere in the country.

Let us not balance the budget upon the backs of our public employees who have given up so much more than our wealthy bankers who have never taken it on the chin.

This is a good start towards economic recovery for Hawaii and I respectfully ask that you vote favorably for HB793, SD1.

Charles K. Torigoe

From: Terry Brooks [terry@hsiservices.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:05 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: Johnston Gaye; Powell Bill
Subject: Testimony for SD1 (HSCR656)

Testimony for for Hearing SD1: Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m., State Capitol Auditorium

Dear Concerned Legislators:

As a developer and operator of state and federally funded low-income housing, Housing Solutions Inc. strongly opposes any effort to remove its general excise tax exemption on rental income for such projects.

Because the rents we charge are limited by federal and state regulations, we have no legal way of passing on an additional amount to recover excise tax from our tenants. The full brunt of the tax would have to be absorbed by our NON-PROFIT agency.

Our Weinberg Hale facility, for example, generates about \$60,000 per month in revenue, and operating costs for the facility are about the same. Given that these properties currently operate at break-even, where would we get almost \$30,000 each year to pay GET?

Our organization operates eight low-income properties (including homeless shelters), totaling over 700 apartments. Losing our GET exemption would be devastating.

Mahalo,

Terry Brooks, President
Housing Solutions Incorporated
A NON-PROFIT AGENCY
PO Box 11360, Honolulu, HI 96828
terry@hsiservices.net
808-222-5510

LATE

From: cookim@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 12:02 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793, SD1

I strongly support HB 793, SD1.

Florence Kim
2790 Kahaloa Drive, #509
Honolulu, HI 96822

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 12:03 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: melva.f.ferreira@hawaii.gov
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Melva Ferreira
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: melva.f.ferreira@hawaii.gov
Submitted on: 4/6/2011

Comments:

We are all in this sinking boat so we should all share in it's survival, I strongly support raising the excise tax.

LATE

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2011

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:


I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits.

A combination of a modest, temporary increase to the GET and suspension of exemptions is a fair and responsible way to address our state's deficit. The proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, as written, should be part of a more comprehensive package of legislation to address the State's significant budget shortfall. A piecemeal approach to address our revenue and budget concerns is shortsighted and will only function as a temporary solution to a much larger problem. Without comprehensive and significant changes, the Legislature will once again need to revisit the budget shortfall.

This legislation, as a whole, is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services. A package of comprehensive changes, where we all give a little, is critical.

I urge passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Thank you,


Signature

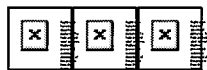
DEANDRA K I PERRY
Print Name

Additional Comments:

From: henri freitas [henrif286@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:20 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB No 793 SD1

I wholeheartedly support this bill and hope it passes.

Henri Freitas



MY RULE:

BE Yourself
DO Your Best
LIVE Life To The Fullest

From: Cathy [cathy808@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:37 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: CC Email
Subject: proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1,

The Honorable David Ige and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee:

The proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, makes certain temporary changes to the general excise tax law and is expected to relieve the budget crisis by suspending certain exemptions and temporarily increasing the tax until 2015.

Further, the bill provides that the impact on residents, such as seniors and lower income populations, will be lessened by the granting of larger credits and a doubling of the standard deduction

Alternatively, while people may say, "Cut government services" instead of raising taxes, it really doesn't work that way. What people want is service without having to pay for it. But you, the Legislature, know that that is not the responsible thing to do. Government has responsibilities it must fulfill, the cuts are already so deep, and things aren't working very well already because of them. You know that.

We have to pay for certain services that must go on whether people want them, whether they are willing to pay for them. As a community, we all should be paying for them. (Easy examples : schools -- I don't have children but good schools are essential and everyone should pay for them; Or roads around the island , we all should chip in, not just the neighborhood streets we drive on, etc., etc.)

Inasmuch as the GET is paid by everyone, of the solutions presented so far this session, this bill appears to be the most equitable way to address the \$1.3 billion deficit. Other proposals appear to provide limited and inadequate solutions to the problem.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Chang

From: Warren Asaeda [skinut001@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:33 PM
To: WAM Testimony

Please support the GET increase, as this would be the fairest way to raise revenue with the least pain inflicted upon any one group. Also, please remember that visitors would, in this way, contribute towards our revenue.

Warren Asaeda

From: Kenneth [rbode4@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:55 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793, SD1

It is time, we have put up with the fact that some get and others do without long enough, and so with that said I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 793, SD1, we all have to do our part and tighten our belts.

Aloha

Kenneth A. Bode Jr.
Maui, Hawaii

From: Gary Simon [GarySimon@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 2:29 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: Schick, Eudie; Wegner, Eldon; Lum, Dr. Wes
Subject: Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means on HB793 Proposed SD1 for the Hearing on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 9:30 A. M.

Testifier's Name: Gary Simon
Chair
Legislative Committee
Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs

Testimony Is Directed To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Measure: HB793 Proposed SD1

Date & Time of Hearing: Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 9:30 A. M.

Position: PABEA supports HB793 Proposed SD1

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

I am Gary Simon, Chair of the Legislative Committee of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA), which is an appointed board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging (EOA).

I am testifying as an individual who has worked in healthcare for over twenty years, and I am offering testimony on behalf of PABEA.

My testimony does not represent the views of the EOA but of PABEA.

PABEA recognizes the continuing fiscal crisis in our State. Health and social services programs, including services to our poor, homeless, and vulnerable have been reduced or entirely eliminated. Many of these services and programs affect the quality of life of our senior citizens and the quality of care for the frail elderly in our State. Existing resources are inadequate to meet the needs of our frail elderly. Further reductions to essential programs in order to close the budget gap ultimately endanger our vulnerable elderly.

PABEA urges you to support a temporary increase in the general excise tax (GET) in lieu of continuing to reduce or eliminate programs and services to our elders and other needed programs in our state. Further cuts to health and social services programs beyond the cuts implemented in previous years would be highly regressive because these cuts would impact those who are most vulnerable members of our community.

We understand that an increase in our GET also can be regressive, but we suggest that a tax credit for low income families could offset the disproportionate burden which these families suffer with the

increase in the GET. Increasing the GET in conjunction with providing tax credits for the low income would spread the burden of preserving essential services across our community and beyond, e. g. with those who visit us from out-of-state and use our services.

PABEA supports such a revenue enhancement, especially because the sacrifice will be shared widely.

We urge you to support HB793 Proposed SD1 and to recommend its passage, and we thank you for seriously considering the Bill.

Thank you for your consideration and for remembering our obligations to our kupuna.

Very sincerely,
Gary Simon
Chair
Legislative Committee
Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs

From: patrick yuen [patrickkyuen@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 2:30 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: "I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 793, SD1."

From: Chris Loos [bfpooches@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 5:30 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB793, SD1

Aloha Chair Ige and members of the committee.

I have lived in Hawaii for more than 20 years and I've never stopped being amazed at how low our excise tax is.

Now we are in financial trouble. We need more revenue. I wish you would raise the tax for all of us but I know that isn't the matter before you. Instead, I urge you to please pass HB793, SD1.

Mahalo.

Christine Loos
Taxpayer and voter

(Sent by mobile phone)

LATE

From: RUDOLPH MAGCALAS [boyie_rvm@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 5:34 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793 SDI

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 791. THANKS. HAVE A NICE DAY.

RUDOLPH V. MAGCALAS
2007 AHUULA STREET
HONOLULU HI 96819
TEL#841-8422

From: Tony Cua [tonyc350@hhsc.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 6:16 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: RE:support HB 793, SD1

**The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means**

April 6, 2011

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits.

A combination of a modest, temporary increase to the GET and suspension of exemptions is a fair and responsible way to address our state's deficit. The proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, as written, should be part of a more comprehensive package of legislation to address the State's significant budget shortfall. A piecemeal approach to address our revenue and budget concerns is shortsighted and will only function as a temporary solution to a much larger problem. Without comprehensive and significant changes, the Legislature will once again need to revisit the budget shortfall.

This legislation, as a whole, is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services. A package of comprehensive changes, where we all give a little, is critical.
I urge passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Thank you,

 Tony S. Cua
Signature

 Tony S. Cua
Print Name

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LATE

From: Stephen Sleight [dogkofi@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 5:54 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793,SD1

I strongly support HB 793, SD1. Passage of the bill will be a more fair and responsible way to address the State's budget shortfall.

Stephen Sleight
605 Kaiola St. Kihei HI 96753

From: Susan Werner [pauwela808@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 6:31 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: support HB 793, SD1

Aloha Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

I strongly support HB 793, SD1 and urge you to vote for in favor of it because I think it is the single most equitable solution to our current budget problems.

We need to increase revenue now to balance the budget and to help us rebuild our economy for the next few years. And everyone shares in the cost without burdening any particular sector of our community.

Please vote YES on HB 793, SD1. Thank you.

Susan Werner
2923 E Lelehuna Place
Haiku HI 96708

From: James.K.Fukumoto@hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 6:42 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: reps@capitol.hawaii.com
Subject: HB793, SD1

I am a state employee and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB793, SD1. It is drastically unfair that state employees are taken advantage of and being the scapegoat in this economic situation. It is like we are invited to a pot luck and state employees are always asked to bring the main dish. How would you feel?

From: Joseph Thomas [jdtjr02@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 6:38 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793, SD1

"I strongly support HB 793, SD1."

Joseph Thomas
BWS
COUNTY OF HONOLULU

Sent from my iPhone

From: Adam Lee [adam2005lee@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 6:49 AM
To: All Reps; All Senators; WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793 SD1

Dear Representatives, Senators and Committee Members:

Our budget problems shouldn't be solved by cutting public services, but instead by raised taxes paid by more of the community that uses those public services.

Also I'm tired of tax breaks and exemptions given to select businesses, and its time they pay more of their share in these tough times.

I support HB 793 SD1, and I ask you all to support it too. Thanks!

Adam Lee

LATE

From: Duncan Hui [duncan.hui@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 7:18 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793

I strongly support HB 793, SD1.

LATE

From: Cora Organo [corgano5@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 7:55 AM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Cc: corgano5@hotmail.com
Subject: I strongly support HB793, SD1

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D.1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits.

A combination of a modest, temporary increase to the GET and suspension of exemptions is a fair and responsible way to address our state's deficit. The proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, as written, should be part of a more comprehensive package of legislation to address the State's significant budget shortfall. A piecemeal approach to address our revenue and budget concerns is shortsighted and will only function as a temporary solution to a much larger problem. Without comprehensive and significant changes, the Legislature will once again need to revisit the budget shortfall.

This legislation as a whole, is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services. A package of comprehensive changes, where we all give a little, is critical.

I urge passage of H.B. 793, S.D.1.

Thank you.

Corazon D. Organo

From: JoJo [jojo_in_hi@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 7:50 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: H.B. 793, S. D. 1

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits.

A combination of a modest, temporary increase to the GET and suspension of exemptions is a fair and responsible way to address our state's deficit. The proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, as written, should be part of a more comprehensive package of legislation to address the State's significant budget shortfall. A piecemeal approach to address our revenue and budget concerns is shortsighted and will only function as a temporary solution to a much larger problem. Without comprehensive and significant changes, the Legislature will once again need to revisit the budget shortfall.

This legislation, as a whole, is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services. A package of comprehensive changes, where we all give a little, is critical.

I urge passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Thank you,

JoAnn Kunitake

LATE

From: Richard Uyesato [ruyesato@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 7:59 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Support HB 793, SD1

Please support HB 793, SD1

From: jun nak [jnak1@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:05 AM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps

I strongly support HB 793, SD1!!!

i am a government worker & am tired of being the scapegoat; i don't what the real and unsaid underlying issue is about not wanting to raise the GET but obviously it's political; get off the soap box & just raise the dang thing! if you raised it initially we wouldn't be in a worse position today!

why don't you legislators put your money where your mouth is & take a bigger pay cut, i.e, 20%; don't try to bargain for retro pay like our judges have either; that's a knife in our backs

my saying; you, the legislature and our judges, will ever have their houses foreclosed on; it's the little people, who by the way are the biggest voting population, that pay the dearest price; these people are desparately trying to save their homes

LATE

From: Joan Takano [takano.joan@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:07 AM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: SUPPORT HB 793, SD 1

Aloha:

I strongly support HB 793, SD 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax, and provides for food and other tax credits. The measure uses a combination of actions to in part address the budget shortfall. It is much needed to preserve important government programs and services.

I urge passage of HB 793, SD 1.

Sincerely,
Joan Takano

LATE

From: Linda Silva [rlscrs@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:19 AM
To: WAM Testimony

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
April 6, 2011

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits.

A combination of a modest, temporary increase to the GET and suspension of exemptions is a fair and responsible way to address our state's deficit. The proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, as written, should be part of a more comprehensive package of legislation to address the State's significant budget shortfall. A piecemeal approach to address our revenue and budget concerns is shortsighted and will only function as a temporary solution to a much larger problem. Without comprehensive and significant changes, the Legislature will once again need to revisit the budget shortfall.

This legislation, as a whole, is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services. A package of comprehensive changes, where we all give a little, is critical.

I urge passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Thank you,

From: Gary Shimazu [gshimazu@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:21 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793, SD1

I strongly support HB 793, SD1.

LATE

From: Junette.M.Nakamura@courts.state.hi.us
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:14 AM
To: All Reps; WAM Testimony; All Senators
Subject: I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 793, SD1!!

WE MUST DO IT; IT'S TIME; LET ALL BEAR THE BURDEN; NOT JUST THE SELECT FEW AS THE GOVERNOR HAS CHOSEN TO DO

From: Mahealani Jones [amyj@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:40 AM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: Testimony, HB 793, SD 1
Attachments: amyj.vcf

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii

The Senate

Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2011

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits.

A combination of a modest, temporary increase to the GET and suspension of exemptions is a fair and responsible way to address our state's deficit. The proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, as written, should be part of a more comprehensive package of legislation to address the State's significant budget shortfall. A piecemeal approach to address our revenue and budget concerns is shortsighted and will only function as a temporary solution to a much larger problem. Without comprehensive and significant changes, the Legislature will once again need to revisit the budget shortfall.

This legislation, as a whole, is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services. A package of comprehensive changes,

where we all give a little, is critical.

I would also like to point out that state employees have shouldered the burden of the state's fiscal crisis with significant salary reductions for the last two years, someone's great idea to keep the state solvent. Since that was instituted, I have had to stop any contributions to non-profit and charitable organizations because of it. I no longer can afford to give to Hawai'i Public Radio, my local YWCA, and a variety of other organizations that are essential to the health and well being of our communities. I understand that my medical insurance rates will likely rise, thus creating an even greater economic shortage for me. I already do not patronize restaurants very often, I never go to movies, and am very frugal with discretionary spending. I need new tires, my house should be tented again soon, and I have a medical condition that cannot be monitored by any physician in the state, forcing me, at my own expense, to fly to the mainland for treatment. HMSA does not pay for out of state travel. My doctor in California asks to see me every 6 months. I am lucky if I can get there once a year. I will soon be 60, and am wondering if I will be able to retire at 66 or 67. At this rate, probably not.

I believe it is time for everyone to help in this fiscal crisis, and not put such a huge burden on those of us who work for the state. Please do not accept another salary reduction, or the continuation of the current one, for state employees. We deserve a chance to catch up with our bills too.

I urge passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Thank you for your consideration,

Amy Jones

Hilo, Hawai'i

LATE

From: Odetta Aspera [odettaa@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:09 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793, SD1

I strongly support HB 793, SD1.

Regards,
Odetta Aspera
99-122 Kihewa Pl
Aiea HI 96701
[www.odettaa@gmail.com](mailto:odettaa@gmail.com)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:47 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: Vixen.Hawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Linda Hijirida
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: Vixen.Hawaii@gmail.com
Submitted on: 4/6/2011

Comments:
I strongly support HB 793 SD1

LATE

From: jeana kerr [jeana_kerr@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:21 AM
To: WAM Testimony

To Whom It May Concern:

I support HB793,SD1, only so far as it is a temporary increase in the State's GET tax, and acts as similarly as a sales tax as is possible in Hawaii.

Thank you,

Jeana Kerr

LATE

From: Madeleine Buchanan [Madeleine48@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:54 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793 sd1

I urge you to support HB 793 SD1.

Mahalo
Madeleine Buchanan
50 Puu Anoano, 3903
Lahaina HI 96761

Sent from my iPad

LATE

From: Desmond Wilstead [tdwilst@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:59 AM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: get tax

please use the get tax to help the state out of debt until we can get a better economy. I support the hb793 hb1 bill. we need a way that all residents share the cost. and all those who come here and use our resources such as tourists.

LATE

From: skuramata@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:00 AM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: GET Bill

Aloha,

We support the HB 793, SD1.

Mahalo,

Shigeru Kuramata
Stephanie A Kuramata

skuramata@aol.com
4/6/11

From: Kerry H [kerryh65@ymail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:23 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Support HB 793

I am in strong support of HB 793, and I hope you are too. Thank you.

From: miriamljacobson@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:28 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: in support of HB 793 SD 1

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2011

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits.

A combination of a modest, temporary increase to the GET and suspension of exemptions is a fair and responsible way to address our state's deficit. The proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, as written, should be part of a more comprehensive package of legislation to address the State's significant budget shortfall. A piecemeal approach to address our revenue and budget concerns is shortsighted and will only function as a temporary solution to a much larger problem. Without comprehensive and significant changes, the Legislature will once again need to revisit the budget shortfall.

This legislation, as a whole, is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services. A package of comprehensive changes, where we all give a little, is critical.

I urge passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Thank you and aloha,

Miriam Jacobson

From: Webmail donmat [donmat@hawaiianisp.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:43 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB793,SD1

I support HB793,SD1

LATE

From: Vtanaka [vtanaka@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 7:29 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Save public workers

Yes to GET! Save public workers, save public services, save Democracy, save public union rights, save our livelihood!

vtanaka@yahoo.com

Mahalo & Aloha!

Sent from my iPod

From: Webmail donmat [donmat@hawaiianisp.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 10:07 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB793,SD1

"I strongly support HB 793, SD1."
Don Matsuda

From: jokurihara@aim.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 10:06 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793, SD1



Jojo

I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D.1.

From: Pak Tam [pakhangtam@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 11:24 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: GET, supported

Shrink the Government and get out from the financial crisis by the GET Bill.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 11:47 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: jpiimauna@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeffrey Piimauna
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jpiimauna@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/6/2011

Comments:

I strongly support HB 793. I am tired of some Tea Party political faction of the republican party blaming state workers for the budget deficit. It's about time we all share the financial burden left by a republican president and governer.

From: ian rand [iandanielrand@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 12:51 PM
To: WAM Testimony

i strongly support HB
793 sdi

thxs
irene

From: Anwar [anquadri@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:10 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: I support HB 9793

Sent from my iPhone

LATE

From: Tim Littlejohn [timilittlejohn@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:19 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: I support HB 793, SD1

Dear WAM Committee,

I strongly support HB 793, SD1.

Sincerely,

Tim Littlejohn

L A T E

Testimony to SUPPORT HB 793-SD1, Relating to Taxation

To Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Senate committee Ways and Means: Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

As a senior citizen living on a fixed income, I would like to voice my support for HB793-SD1. The much needed tax relief offered in this bill for low and middle income people will truly make a difference in my life, and the lives of others like me, in these tough economic times. At the same time, it will increase revenue to help solve our budget crisis, and protect much needed social services that so many depend on, such as education and health care, from the crippling budget cuts they are facing.

Most importantly, it is simply the right thing to do. We need to end 30+ years of Reaganomics and move back toward a progressive tax system which does not burden the poor while rewarding the wealthy. This plan is a step in the right direction toward that goal.

Not only is this bill socially just, but it makes good economic sense as well. For these reasons I humbly ask that you support this bill.

Mahalo,
Marcia Linville

Testimony to SUPPORT HB 793-SD1, Relating to Taxation

To Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Senate committee Ways and Means: Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

As both a citizen and a small business owner, I would like to voice my support for HB793-SD1, as I believe it is truly an intelligent approach to help solve our budget crisis, and also represents a move toward a more fair progressive tax system, where the poor are taxed only on their ability to pay, and the wealthy are as well.

The GET portion of this bill will not hurt businesses or consumers, because the tax breaks in this bill not only offset any additional costs for those who may otherwise not be able to afford them, but they actually put even more money in their pockets. And, not only will they get the new increased credits at the end of the year, but thanks to the increase in the standard deduction, many will see a reduction in their tax withholding, resulting in more take home money in every paycheck, and more money that can be pumped back into the economy.

This bill will increase tax revenue, and help to protect much needed social services that are facing crippling funding cuts, while at the same time provide a much needed tax cut for low income individuals and families. In fact, estimates show this plan will potentially increase tax revenue by a total of almost 1.3 billion dollars during fiscal years 2011 to 2013, while at the same time cutting income tax for low income individuals and families by almost \$186 million over the same period. It is basically "Reverse Reaganomics", and a step in the right direction back toward a progressive tax system that does not reward the wealthy at the expense of the poor

This plan is not only socially just, but it makes good economic sense as well. Truly this is a win win for Hawaii, and humbly ask that you support this bill.

Mahalo,
Rev. Vincent Browne

From: j.yoshida [j.yoshida@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:53 PM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: HB 793, SD1

WE STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 793, SD1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits.

A modest, temporary increase to the GET is the fairest way for ALL taxpayers to "help paddle the canoe".

Thank you,
Brian and Johnette Yoshida

From: Ken Kajihara [kkaj@hawaiiintel.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:08 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793, SD1

I support HB 793, SD1 and ask that you support it too.
thank you,
ken kajihara

From: kurt nagano [matsunagano@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 7:57 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793, SD1

I support HB 793, SD1

I think this is the fair way to spread the burden

Aloha
Kurt M. Nagano
matsunagano@hotmail.com

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 6:45 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: beaverm001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Malia Beaver
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: beaverm001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 4/6/2011

Comments:

It is unfair to place the majority burden on state employees to plug up the deficit. All in Hawaii should share in this fix, not just the state employees. The bill should pass to allow the revenue situation to ease the load as an increase in GET will almost single handedly wipe out the deficit. The arguments of how such an increase will create hardship for the poor is a non-issue because if a person is "poor"; the State has the welfare system in which the cost of living allotments can be adjusted as this process is already in the system.

LATE

From: Courtney Carpenter [al-courtney@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 5:58 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Support for HB 793,SD1

I strongly support HB793,SD1. I am willing to pay more taxes to get needed government services.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Erik Vuong [etvuong@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 5:17 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Support HB 793, SD1

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii The Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits.

A combination of a modest, temporary increase to the GET and suspension of exemptions is a fair and responsible way to address our state's deficit. The proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, as written, should be part of a more comprehensive package of legislation to address the State's significant budget shortfall. A piecemeal approach to address our revenue and budget concerns is shortsighted and will only function as a temporary solution to a much larger problem. Without comprehensive and significant changes, the Legislature will once again need to revisit the budget shortfall.

This legislation, as a whole, is much needed to preserve state and county government programs and services. A package of comprehensive changes, where we all give a little, is critical.

I urge passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Thank you,

Erik Vuong

From: Dexter Liu [dliu002@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:54 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB793SK1

I strongly support HB793.SD1

Linda Liu

From: Joycelyn haswell [jkhhaswell007@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2011 1:14 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: I strongly support HB 793, SD1

I strongly support HB 793, SD1. We need it to help balance the budget and get Hawaii back on its feet.

Joycelyn Haswell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:05 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: macooper.1941@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dr. Maxwell Cooper
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: macooper.1941@gmail.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

Hon. Chair Hee and Members. Passing an overall increase in the GET seems unfair and inappropriate in these tough economic times. Removing some or all of the exemptions should be considered however.

Thanks for the opportunity to send testimony.

Max Cooper

LATE

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing you to oppose Bill 793 and any other attempt to raise the general excise tax. During this difficult economic time, it is hard enough for families to make ends meet and we do not need this additional tax burden.

I respectfully request that instead on increasing taxes, you look at ways for government to tighten its belt. I have made sacrifices to my family's budget during the past few years and I hope that government would do the same.

Sincerely,

Sean Uezu

LATE

HB 793 Proposed SD1
Testimony of Patrick Parsons

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, April 6, 2011
9:30am
Auditorium

I am grateful to have this opportunity to testify in opposition of HB 793 Proposed SD1. I, Patrick Parsons, oppose this measure.

HB 793 Proposed SD1 would temporarily suspend the general excise and use tax exemptions for many persons and industries and instead, require them to pay the applicable tax at a graduated rate. The measure also increases tax rates for many public service companies effective January 1, 2012-June 30, 2015.

If this passes, it will do more harm than good in the long run as small businesses who keep money within the state will find it harder to operate and customers who support local businesses will suffer as well.

From: Taylor, Vicki [Vicki.Taylor@doh.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:10 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793, SD1

I support the this bill HB 793, SD1 , because we can't keep cutting the services to the mentally ill. We are running this clinic on a shoe string, with no where to place the Dual Diagnosis clients.

Vicki L. Taylor, LMHC, CSAC,
ICADC, NCC, MSCP
MISA Coordinator
Central Oahu Community Mental Health Center
860 Fourth Street, Rm. 204
Pearl City, HI 96782
Ph:808- 453-5953 Fax: 808-453-5966
e-mail: vicki.taylor@doh.hawaii.gov



HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
HEALTHY PEOPLE - HEALTHY COMMUNITIES - HEALTHY ISLANDS

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From: SherlBlod@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:11 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793, Proposed SDI, Hearing Wed Apr 6, 11, 9:30 am

Aloha Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,

I understand Proposed SD1 temporarily suspends the exemptions for certain persons and certain amounts of gross income from the GET and requires the payment of the tax during that period.

I, being a combat-connected disabled veteran of WWII, strongly oppose any suspension of exemptions as well as increases in the GET.

I have had to reduce my expenses considerably due to the fact I have had no increase in my retirement or disability payments over the last two-plus years. My expenses have been significantly increased due to fuel charges that impact both car utilization and food costs brought in to Maui.

I respectfully request that instead of increasing taxes, you look at ways to reduce expenditures as I have done because of lack of a "fixed income."

Bert L. Blodgett
3823 Lwr Honoapiilani Rd, Apt 317
Lahaina, HI 96761-8911
Tel: 808-669-5305
Email: SherlBlod@aol.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:12 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: matt@longfellow.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Matt Longfellow
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: matt@longfellow.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

Increasing the GE will have a dramatic negative effect at a time where we can least afford it. There is no way to tax ourselves out of a deficit because any tax increase will further depress the economy, resulting in less tax revenue. I oppose the bill because it will make the situation worse, not better.

From: sfox@nhofhawaii.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:17 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: A GET Increase will Hurt Small Businesses: Oppose HB 793

Sean Fox
1585 Kapiolani Blvd Suite 1000
Honolulu, HI 96814-4524

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Thank you for your time today. As a Business owner in Hawaii and parent to 3 children attending public schools education here in Honolulu I see the profound waist by our government on a daily basis.

I am the owner of New Horizons Hawaii Computer Training and Solutions, a 10 year old business that is focused on computer training for businesses and government employees. In the past 3 years I have had to make significant changes in my business to stay in business. The most difficult has been the reduction of staff.

In this time period we have heard the State of Hawaii talk about budget deficits and how you are going to fix the budget. Reduction of the size of government is never mentioned and furlough Fridays for our teachers was not the answer. It is time for the state of Hawaii to talk about making the same type of changes business owners in Hawaii have been making.

In the past 3 years we have seen many small businesses close, just take a walk around down town and look at all of the empty store fronts. A perfect example of how this increase will further impact every business in Hawaii in in Plate Lunches. In the past 3 years plate lunches have increased from \$5 to \$6 to \$7 to \$9. Those businesses have raised prices because of costs from the economy and increased cost of goods. It is a vicious cycle because the increase in cost has caused more people to bring lunch - making the problem worse.

As all businesses in Hawaii have gotten smaller government has not. It is time for the State of Hawaii to review every position and make the same types of changes your employers, the tax payers, have been doing while supporting you, permanent staff reduction of State employees.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Sean Fox
9474474

From: prepaidlegal@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:17 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to a GET Increase

Thomas Gibson
94-036 Puanane Place
Mililani, HI 96789-1725

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Our businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic times and we are doing our best in continuing to provide benefits to our employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Thomas Gibson
808-306-5372

LATE

From: tmbossola@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:17 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Help Small Businesses by Opposing a GET Incease

tracy bossola
pobox 966
haleiwa, HI 96712-0966

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

tracy bossola
8087838764

From: SherlBlod@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:18 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Proposed SD1, HB 793, Hearing Wed, Apr 6, 2011, 9:30 am

Aloha Senators and Representatives,

I am writing to oppose Bill HB 793 and any other attempt to raise the GET and/or eliminate exemptions for disabled veterans and/or elderly persons. I have had to cut my expenditures to the bone since I have received no COLA over the past two-plus years, yet my expenses have increased for fuel and other necessities that have been impacted by the fuel and oil prices.

I respectfully request you look at ways to tighten the Hawaii State expenditures, just as I have had to do for my family instead of levying more and more taxes.

Sincerely,

Sherley Blodgett
3823 Lwr Honoapiilani Rd, Apt 317
Lahaina, HI 96761-8911
Tel: 808-669-5305
Email: SherlBlod@aol.com

LATE

Donald R. Dawson
HB 793 Proposed SD1, Relating to Taxation
Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
4/6/11
9:30 a.m.

Members of the State Senate Ways and Means Committee, thank you for hearing my testimony in opposition to HB 793 Proposed SD1. An increase in the G.E.T. for small businesses would cause less spending, not just among our customers, but business owners as well who will lose customers if this bill were to pass. This would hurt us all as a whole instead of fixing any problems.

From: c2paul@hotmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:22 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Help Small Businesses by Opposing a GET Incease

Paul M Chandler
2333 Kapiolani Blvd. #2312
Honolulu, HI 96826-4450

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Dear Chairs Ige and Kidani and Committee Members:

I would much prefer that we institute a 1% sales tax that everyone would pay at the final point of sale of any goods and services. That way we do NOT have to raise the GET. Please exempt food and medicine from the new 1% sales tax. AND please close loopholes on big business that pay no or very few taxes. The taxes in the US in general are among the lowest of all developed countries. Stop putting more and more on the back of the working people of this country and let the big companies pay their share! They are laughing all of the way to the bank (and some of them are banks).

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Dr. Paul M. Chandler

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:23 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: umemoto-architect@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ernest M. Umemoto
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: umemoto-architect@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

Terrible way to raise taxes.

The provision within HB 793 SD1 to remove the exemption currently afforded to "contractors" as defined in the Hawaii Revised Statutes (Section 237-13 (03) (B) (i) will specifically cause an adverse effect on our members, allied engineers and Hawaii construction firms, a majority of whom are small businesses in Hawaii. This measure will have a significantly broad and negative effect on our State's overall economy as we all know the importance of design and construction in stimulating economic growth and creating needed jobs.

While this measure is proposed to extract additional revenues to address the state's fiscal crisis, it is especially key to note that elimination of this specific exemption and others would come at a bad time as Hawaii's economy struggles to come back from the devastation of economic recession. Eliminating the general excise exemptions for temporary gain may have a significantly dire consequence over the long term.

Moreover, the overall impact on the design and construction industry would be very large, because of the well documented "pyramid effect." A gross receipts tax, without key exemptions in place, has a well known escalating effect that creates an extra layer of taxation at each stage of the product and service life cycle. For the design and construction industry this leads to dramatically higher costs for housing, commercial and industrial structures built for Hawaii businesses, state and city governments and residential homeowners. Hawaii citizens already struggle with one of the highest costs for construction and housing in the nation.

We encourage you to seek more economically neutral ways of taxing businesses, and urge you to look deeper at long-term solutions for creating greater efficiencies within the government. This bill has the serious potential of reducing business in a time when Hawaii business needs stimulation. We urge opposition as currently written.

Sincerely,

Ernest M Umemoto AIA Architect

From: luanlani@juno.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:23 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Oppose HR-739, Increase GET

Your Honorable Civic Leader:

Our Ohana of three generations consists of several households is opposing HB-739, GET increase, because we simply can not afford anymore taxes. In the passed three years, our ohana's collective earnings, savings and investments have affected greatly by the national economy. Some of our savings and investments became losses and uncorrectable. As a family of retirees, professionals and business people we are supporting each other within our ohana net work financially and emotionally without burdening our society and its well fair system. We are proud tax payers, voters and political contributors.

In toady's economy, great civic leaders need to differentiate themselves from others by exercising extreme intelligence, good judgments and not to add burdens beyond the citizens financial capabilities.

Please, deny the passage of HR-739.

Sincerely,

John Luan
92-1133 Pueonani St
Kapolei, Hi 96707

Phone: 808-672-0997

LATE

RE: HB793, GET tax increase to 5%

Dear Committee Members,

I would like to testify against HB793. Increasing the tax to 5% would be of significant burden to businesses and the consumers. This is a pervasive tax that hits every level of business - from production to the end consumer. This tax increase will also increase unemployment and harm the economy and in fact worsen the budget.

Instead of the proposed tax credits, tax credits should be targeted at small businesses which will improve the state's economy through job creation and therefore improve the budget shortfalls. The proposed tax credits for those who are receiving government aid or housing is only a temporary fix for low income earners, who already pay little or no taxes.

Respectfully,

Linda O'Grady

Kailua, Hawaii

From: ssombbrero@chaneybrooks.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:27 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to a GET Increase

Steve Sombbrero
1440 Kapiolani Suite 1010
Honolulu, HI 96814-3612

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Our economy has not yet even begun to recover. People are still struggling to pay rent and mortgages.

We have yet to see the full effects of the situation in Japan. We did escape the first tsunami but the real economic tsunami is still on its way and this time we have no way to escape it. Not even our best economists can predict what to expect or how to prepare for it.

The last thing we need is new taxes. A 1% increase in the GET will surely slow down commerce and will actually force companies to make further cutbacks and lay off employees. Some will even shut down altogether and just leave.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Steve Sombbrero
808-544-1600

From: Henry Berringer [hrberringer@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:25 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Relating to Taxation

Aloha, When it comes to taxes, nothing is temporary, you know it and so does the public. Make the appropriate decisions and reduce your spending. As a small business owner we have had to delay capitol improvements, new equipment purchases and let employees go. Please adopt a more business like and fiscally responsible attitude and make tough decisions, even if it means a non essential someone(s) may loose their job and you must fight the unions.

Respectfully, Hank Berringer

Hank Berringer, publisher
Homes & Land of Hawaii, The Big Island
PO BOX 486 Hilo, HI 96721 cell 808-430-0078 Fax 808-959-5799

email: hrberringer@yahoo.com
www.homesandlandofhawaii.com

Check our new informative website! Integrated Marketing System Benefits website:
<http://homesandland.com/benefits>

From: stevenc@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:32 PM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: Please, no more tax increases!

Dear Legislators,

Please do not increase the General Excise Tax (again). We, the people of the great state of Hawaii, can hardly afford the cost of living now...yet another tax increase and one so large would, I fear, push a measurable number of families over the 'unable-to-afford-to-live-in-this-state' line.

The current proposed increase of 1% equals a 25% increase in the amount of money you're asking your constituents to pay. That, on top of the 12.5% increase effected 1 Jan '07 translates to you raising the G.E.T. 37.5%. Ladies and gentlemen, that's incredibly harsh and, to the majority of the voting public, inexcusable.

Certainly there other ways to save money and work towards a balanced budget. I would suggest take a good, hard look at balancing ("right-sizing") the number of state employees to the actual size and needs of our state.

Hawaii has the largest number of state employees (per capita) than any other state in the nation. Can we continue to fund that payroll, medical/dental insurance and pensions? That was a rhetorical question.

Additionally, I would hope and pray you would also have and exercise the same passion in combating fraud, waste and abuse. One glaring example is the state contract awarding process. Another, equally visible area in desperate need of fiscal (and organizational) reform is our education department, which has served only to keep our children in the bottom 15 percentile academically while spending more money per student than the great majority of all other states.

That, ladies and gentlemen, is sad and pathetic...but inarguably true.

Please don't tax us any more. We can't afford it / you can't afford it.

Sincerely,

Steve Bohlen

--
"Saturday Night With Steve Bohlen"
News Radio 830 KHVH
Saturdays 6 - 9 p.m.
(studio) 808-521-8383

From: ableappliance@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:32 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: A GET Increase will Hurt Small Businesses: Oppose HB 793

Thomas Gebhardt
1617 Young Street #A304
Honolulu, HI 96826-2044

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

As a taxpayer and a businessman I feel all of the states taxpayers are being asked to shoulder an additional burden will drive people and business from the state please vote against this lazy way out of a budget mess

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Thomas Gebhardt
808-381-5881

From: vicki@vickihanby.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:32 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793: Please do not increase the GET

Vicki Hanby Realtor
66-250 Kamehameha Hwy, Ste D-100
Haleiwa, HI 96712-1490

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time. As a real estate professional and Broker in Charge for Stermann Realty LTD our company/agents are double taxed: Once when the commission is paid to the company and again when the agent receives their portion. Any additional increase in GET would adversely affect the families of our 28+ employees.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Respectfully,

Vicki Hanby, Realtor

From: harryz@pobox.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:32 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to a GET Increase

Harry Zisko
1662 Paukiki Street
Kailua, HI 96734-4176

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Harry Zisko

From: David Mayeda [dmayeda@solidfoundationrealestate.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 3:39 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Re: House Bill 793 / General Excise Tax

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a small businessman that is struggling through this bad economy like many other businesses. This bill 793 is another burden that will kill many of the businesses.

I think its time that government should be reducing its cost to meet the state budget instead of increasing the taxes to meet the state budget. I'm not sure if all of you in the legislature ever had to meet the budget in a business. Or in your own family household. Do you think we can just bill our customers more because our expenses are too much.

Lets get real and stop increasing taxes. Let start equilizing the pay, vacations, sick benefit, holidays, medicals, and other items with the private companies. We have to keep reducing all these with our employees just to make ends meet. This is on area that we can cut big time.

We can also reduce the government employees through attrition and have a hiring freeze. And evaluate the operation of each services and maximize the production. I know there are many areas that is getting less than full production.

I am asking you not to support this bill.

Thank you

David Mayeda
Realtor

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:34 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: kpruyn@hdcc.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kirt Pruyn
Organization: Hawaiian Dredging Construction Company
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: kpruyn@hdcc.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

From: STUART WILSON [wilson8189@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:33 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: G.E.T.

This is just another Economy killing measure.

Why would anyone consider opening a business in Hawaii, small or large. Absolutely no profit margin left, unless you charge 5 times more than any mainland business. That's why, when living here you buy everything you can on line.(more businesses lose) That will change too with the onset of a 40% increase shipping cost with Matson.(how about competition)?

Stuart Wilson

From: Glenn Tango [honoluluplumbing@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:33 PM
To: WAM Testimony; gladys@gcahawaii.org
Subject: HB793, HD1 Proposed SD1 Relating to Taxation

I am against this. This will increase capital improvement costs. Glenn Tango, Honolulu Plumbing

From: maricar@kailuacreations.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:37 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: A GET Increase will Hurt Small Businesses: Oppose HB 793

Maricar Lagman
PO BOX 323
Kailua, HI 96734-0323

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Maricar Lagman

LATE

From: ldarnell@comtelhi.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:37 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to a GET Increase

Louis Darnell
44-414 Kaneohe Bay Drive
Kaneohe, HI 96744-2610

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

Raising our incredibly onerous and misunderstood GE Tax is not what will stimulate the economy and save jobs. I believe it will have just the opposite effect. I may have to lay employees off.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Louis Darnell
356-0010

LATE

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: 9:30am, Wednesday, April 6, 2011

Place: Auditorium, State Capitol

Bill: HB 793 Proposed SD1: Relating to Taxation

Testimony of: Harvey C. King – King & Neel Inc.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 793 Proposed SD1. This legislation that would temporarily suspend the general excise and use tax exemptions for many persons and industries and instead, require them to pay the applicable tax at a graduated rate and also increases tax rates for many public service companies would further depress the economy at a time that we can ill afford to do so. Not only would it hurt businesses, but it would also consumers as well. Thank you for your time.

LATE

From: Catherine OSTREM [teamostrem@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:38 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: re: HB793, date 4/6/11 at 9:30am

I oppose HB793, dated 4/6/11 at 9:30am

Sincerely,

Catherine S. Ostrem (R)
Kahala Associates
4211 Waialae Ave., Ste 8090
Honolulu, HI 96816
808 330-5155

From: gscpp@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:42 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Help Small Businesses by Opposing a GET Incease

Gavin Shiraishi
1150 S King St Ste 1101
Honolulu, HI 96814-1954

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

My name is Gavin Shiraishi and I am with Cen Pac Properties, Inc. We are a property management company. Increasing the GET only makes it more difficult to do business. It will hurt my clients who are already bring in less income. It will only drive rents up to cover the costs. But as it stands rents here in Hawaii are still on a decline. Please make it easier to continue to do business in Hawaii by helping to create jobs in Hawaii rather than take away from businesses.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Gavin Shiraishi
8082272898

From: dlee@chaneybrooks.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:42 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793: Please do not increase the GET

D.M. Lee
94502 kipou st
Waipahu, HI 96797-1334

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

D.M. Lee

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:44 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: cfrith@fbsmgt.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: comments only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cynthia Frith
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: cfrith@fbsmgt.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

I strongly oppose this measure as it adds more tax onto those who can least afford it. I'm wondering how long it will take this legislature to take an honest look at all of the state unfunded liabilities and require those who have a guaranteed pension and health care plan to step up and be willing to "pay as you go" like the rest of the working public? It's simple-we're running out of money, and when that happens, who will be left to pay? Robbing Peter to pay Paul just kicks the can down the street. Look around, and you'll see almost every state facing this same dilemma-and it's all politician made

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:46 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: LArakaki@ahldesign.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lloyd Arakaki
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: LArakaki@ahldesign.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

The Honorable David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair Members of the Ways and Means Committee Hawaii
State Senate State Capitol Honolulu, HI 96813

WAM Hearing Date: April 6, 2011, 9:30 am State Capitol Auditorium

Subject: OPPOSE as written, House Bill 793 SD1 Relating to Taxation; Section 3 Amending Chapter 237, Hawaii Revised Statutes to temporarily suspend exemption from January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015 for 1) Amounts deducted from the gross income received by contractors as described under section 237-13 (3) (B)

On behalf of the more than 800 architect members and other allied design professionals of The American Institute of Architects (AIA), AIA Hawaii State Council, I am writing to OPPOSE HB 793 SD1 on Taxation whose provisions aim to suspend key exemptions currently afforded to significant design and construction efforts in Hawaii, among other key business areas across the state. AIA Hawaii previously opposed similar provisions contained in then HB 799 HD1 for similar reasons.

The provision within HB 793 SD1 to remove the exemption currently afforded to "contractors" as defined in the Hawaii Revised Statutes (Section 237-13 (03) (B) (i) will specifically cause an adverse effect on our members, allied engineers and Hawaii construction firms, a majority of whom are small businesses in Hawaii. This measure will have a significantly broad and negative effect on our State's overall economy as we all know the importance of design and construction in stimulating economic growth and creating needed jobs.

While this measure is proposed to extract additional revenues to address the state's fiscal crisis, it is especially key to note that elimination of this specific exemption and others would come at a bad time as Hawaii's economy struggles to come back from the devastation of economic recession. Eliminating the general excise exemptions for temporary gain may have a significantly dire consequence over the long term.

Moreover, the overall impact on the design and construction industry would be very large, because of the well documented "pyramid effect." A gross receipts tax, without key exemptions in place, has a well known escalating effect that creates an extra layer of taxation at each stage of the product and service life cycle. For the design and construction

industry this leads to dramatically higher costs for housing, commercial and industrial structures built for Hawaii businesses, state and city governments and residential homeowners. Hawaii citizens already struggle with one of the highest costs for construction and housing in the nation.

We encourage you to seek more economically neutral ways of taxing businesses, and urge you to look deeper at long-term solutions for creating greater efficiencies within the government. This bill has the serious potential of reducing business in a time when Hawaii business needs stimulation. We urge opposition as currently written.

Sincerely,
Lloyd Arakaki, AIA

From: kari@myhawaiiinfo.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:47 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793: Please do not increase the GET

Kari Butterton
46-112 Kiowai St
Kaneohe, HI 96744-3678

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Kari Butterton
8082560186

From: karib@myhawaiiinfo.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:52 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Help Small Businesses by Opposing a GET Incease

Michael Piecuch
46-112 Kiowai St
Kaneohe, HI 96744-3678

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

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The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Michael Piecuch
8082560186

From: ffujimura@earthcenter.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:52 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to a GET Increase

Frank Fujimura
P.O. Box 38000
Honolulu, HI 96837-1000

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

We experienced a 35% decline in our revenue base since 2009. Our position was not to raise our rates to customer but rather to look strong and hard at our variable then fixed expenses. We needed to make sacrifices first from top management before asking our dedicated staff for their sacrifices. Our final cuts came last year in labor then negotiation with our landlord to reduce real estate space and costs.

Our market share in Hawaii and the potential revenue bases are limited. Any added broad tax increase e.g. 1% general excise tax will have another major reduction in our revenues. The pie is only so big and we cannot get added income or reduced cost of business as those companies in the mainland U.S. We anticipate that a 0.005 to 0.05 percent decline in revenues should the proposed increase becomes reality.

Where else will small Hawaii businesses look at cuts to stay afloat during this tough economic times? We must find solutions to reduce our spending for as much as our reduction in revenues. We have borrowed as much as allowable and still need to pay these loans back like normal Americans. Should not government do the same?

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals. I urge you to not pass HB793 with language that increases the G.E. tax.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Frank T. Fujimura
808-306-2740

LATE

From: moores002@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:57 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: A GET Increase will Hurt Small Businesses: Oppose HB 793

Sharon Moore
84-457 Farrington hwy
Waianae, HI 96792-1943

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Sharon Moore
808 330-3781

From: sunnykapolei@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:57 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793: Please do not increase the GET

Attilio Leonardi, Jr.
94-593 Lumiaina Street
Waipahu, HI 96797-5262

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

By way of introduction, my name is Attilio Leonardi, Jr., President of the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber works on behalf of its members and the entire business community to improve the regional and state economic climate, as well as help Kapolei businesses to establish themselves, grow, and thrive.

Here in Kapolei, we are in the midst of developing the new city. Already blessed with attractive residential communities and a thriving business environment, Kapolei is also the site of the UH-West Oahu campus, the new state judiciary complex, and the Salvation Army Kroc Center, as well as the start-up location of the elevated fixed-rail project. An excise tax increase will only hurt businesses here, and throughout the state, businesses that are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Economists see Kapolei as an economic engine for our state. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Attilio Leonardi, Jr.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:59 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: cmagno@mmirealty.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carmen Magno
Organization: Hawaii Kai Towne Center
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: cmagno@mmirealty.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

I strongly oppose the increase in general excise tax as it would adversely impact merchants at our center (Hawaii Kai Towne Center) and abroad who have been faced with challenges in profiting from their businesses due to the distressed economy of which they were faced with for over 2 years now. The high unemployment rate also attributed to the decrease in merchants' sales for over a long period with several small businesses that have "working owners" in order to minimize employee overhead costs/wages.

I feel that increasing the G.E.T. will have a severe impact to businesses (domino effect) that could cause more lay-offs and/or put them out of business while it is also inevitable that the cost of goods will increase resulting from shipping rate increase that go into effect on May 2011.

With regards to my personal business as a residential real estate investor of 2 properties, I would pass along any increases to my rental tenant. As a result, tenants rent will increase as well, while many families remain faced with less income due to wage cuts or unemployment.

I sincerely believe that increasing the G.E.T. will worsen the financial situation for the State at this difficult time.

LATE

From: mpeary1947@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:00 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Vote NO on HB 793

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee Members,

I am registering my testimony AGAINST HB 793. The proposed G.E.T. hike represents a 25% increase which I am unwilling and unable to pay. Government got us into this fiscal mess and now you want the taxpayers to bail you out? NO!!!

Mahalo,

Margaret Peary
Mililani Mauka

LATE

From: Bruce Barham [uncletuesday@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:00 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: DONT DO IT

ENOUGH ALREADY!!!!!!

**KEEP YOUR HANDS OUT OF THE POCKETS OF HAWAII'S HARD WORKING PEOPLE.
IF YOU RAISE THE G.E.T. WE WILL REMEMBER WHO VOTED TO RAISE THE G.E.T. AND
COME THE NEXT ELECTION SEASON YOUR NAME WILL BE PUBLISHED FOR ALL TO SEE.
REMEMBER YOU WORK FOR US WE DON'T WORK FOR YOU!!!!!!
DO NOT RAISE ANY TAXES. CUT GOVERNMENT SPENDING!!!!
AND WHY NOT START WITH YOUR SALARIES!**

**BRUCE BARHAM
EWA BEACH**

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:02 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: chl86@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Christopher Lee
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: chl86@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

I support HB793 in increasing the general excise tax. State employees should not have to shoulder the burden for the entire state. The entire state should share the burden. An increase in the G.E. Tax would be fair all around. We should not tax retirees pension, that is totally unfair. My father is a retiree. He does not have much to go around. Taxing his pension could put him out in the streets because he won't be able to pay his mortgage.

LATE

From: cymurata@hawaiiantel.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:02 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to a GET Increase

Clarence Murata
744 Hoomaemae Street
Pearl City, HI 96782-2146

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Clarence Murata
808-455-4390

From: larakaki@ahldesign.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:02 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to a GET Increase

Lloyd Arakaki
99-1347 Aiea Hgts. Dr.
Aiea, HI 96701-3019

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

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Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

As a member of the construction, I am opposed to provisions to suspend key exemptions currently afforded to significant design and construction efforts in Hawaii, among other key business areas across the state. The AIA previously opposed similar provisions contained in then HB 799 HD1 for similar reasons.

This measure will have a significantly broad and negative effect on our State's overall economy as we all know the importance of design and construction in stimulating economic growth and creating needed jobs.

Moreover, the overall impact would be enlarged because of the "pyramid effect" effectively creating an extra layer of taxation at each stage of the product and service life cycle.

Besides increasing costs for construction and housing, it makes Hawaii firms much less competitive in out-of-state markets which have become more important as the local market shrinks. This bill has the serious potential of reducing business in a time when Hawaii business needs stimulation.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Lloyd Arakaki

LATE

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee
Public hearing
April 6, 2011, 9:30 a.m. in the Auditorium

Regarding: HB793 SD1 (Proposed)

Dear Chair David Ige and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

I am opposed to HB793 SD1 (proposed), which calls for an increase in the General Excise Tax.

Last session, when a very similar bill was proposed (2010 HB2877), Sen. Donna Kim, then-head of the Ways and Means Committee, said that an increase in the GE tax would "threaten businesses, especially small businesses, which would be forced to lay off the very people we are trying to help. Furthermore, the negative effect an increase in the GET could have on consumers may have a corresponding impact on dollars circulating in Hawaii's economy."

I think that Sen. Kim's words still hold true today regarding an increase of the GET.

As a small business person, I cannot afford a 25 percent increase in my costs to do business without some kind of adverse effect on my ability to continue to make a living here in Hawaii. I do not have at my disposal the means to use taxpayers' money to pay for my costs, unlike how all levels of government operate.

If my budget increases because my costs are going up, I have to either cut back on what I am spending or go out of business.

Government needs to be wary of increasing its own budget during a time when it is already in a deficit position.

It is time to cut back on spending rather than continue to grow government and ultimately hurt the very businesses earning the money that pays for government to exist in the first place.

Regards,
Jay McWilliams
Small Business Owner

From: Sue [suecando@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:04 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793

Aloha,

It has come to my attention that the Senate Ways and Means Committee will be holding a hearing tomorrow to talk about possibly increasing the GET by 25%.

Are you kidding? Why can't the state learn to live within it's budget like the rest of us have to? As a self-employed business person in Hawaii, I am already paying about 25% of my income in taxes. As a tax return preparer, I can't tell you how many clients are losing money and still paying GET because this tax is on a gross proceeds basis, and they are seriously considering going out of business because they cannot afford to pay the current 4.5% GET rate on Oahu. Increasing the GET to 5% on Oahu will surely push them over the edge, and the State will lose revenues instead of increase revenues.

Please vote NO on any bills to increase the GET!

Sue Sowders, CPA
SUECANDO
92-551 Uhiuala St.
Kapolei, HI 96707
cell# 808-230-7395
hm office# 808-672-6441

I am testifying in **Opposition** to HB793 SD1 (proposed) GE Tax Hike and Removal of Exemptions

As a family-owned media services business in Hawaii for over 22 years, we have struggled with the high cost of doing business here.

At the same time, our family has endured enormous expense raising and educating our children. Every dollar we earn is spent on the rising cost of basic necessities.

The proposed tax bill before you today, if passed, will mean that we will have to move our business out of this State. And with us, we will take our ability to coordinate large corporate convention clients and subcontractors. Our clients have the ability to hold their events all over the world, but the cost of doing business in Hawaii is far more expensive than in Singapore, Korea, Bali, Malaysia and so on. Therefore, in these sparse economic times, companies are cutting back and finding less expensive venues that provide a higher quality of service for their events. It makes no economic sense for us to do business here if most of our clientele chooses to take their dollars elsewhere.

Business drives the economic engine that pays for government employees and services. We ask for nothing: we give and give so that others may have the pensions, health benefits and job security that we can only dream about.

The governor and legislators are telling us that we all must sacrifice. But government is sacrificing nothing. In fact, the governor has proposed growing the government by \$500M more, despite shrinking revenues. In contrast, Hawaii's families must reduce their budgets to realistically fit within their budgets.

Unless Hawaii's government is restructured and streamlined now to allow businesses to thrive, the human suffering that will result will be enormous. That would be a heavy price to pay for your failure today to right-size government.

Laura Brown

Mililani, HI

From: windwardbiofeedback@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:07 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to a GET Increase

Margaret Hill
45-408 Kamehameha Hwy
Kaneohe, HI 96744-1722

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time. It's hard already to meet the monthly "tariff", a "tariff" that is not required of service professionals in other states. As professional counselors we are already hit with lower fees due to Federal, Military and Private Insurance cuts, and, due to the cost of years of training, extensive state licensure fees and demands, malpractice insurance and annual training costs, make far less that most other professionals. As it is, we can barely afford office staff. This increase would mean letting office staff go, decreasing the number of patients seen, and instead doing the burdensome paperwork ourselves.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Margaret Hill
808-781-3007

From: llam@diabetes.org
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:17 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793: Please do not increase the GET

Leslie Lam
47-136 Kaimalolo Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744-5004

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

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The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Leslie Lam
808 393 7319

From: angelina@camposcoaching.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:22 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793: Please do not increase the GET

Angelina Campos
47-669 Wailehua Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744-4932

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

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Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Angelina Campos

LATE

From: Lowell Greer [lgreer1@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:20 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: GE Tax

We really do not need a change to our already high GE tax system. Everyone loses with increased taxes and this is already one of the more business "UNFRIENDLY" states.

More taxes, less employment = less taxes from fewer workers.

Sincerely,

Lowell Greer
Greer Cabinetworks, Inc.
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Bob Hamidi [bobhamidi39@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:20 PM
To: WAM Testimony

I am writing you to oppose Bill ___ and any other attempt to raise the general excise tax. During this difficult economic time, it is hard enough for families to make ends meet and we do not need this additional tax burden.

I respectfully request that instead on increasing taxes, you look at ways for government to tighten its belt. I have made sacrifices to my family's budget during the past few years and I hope that government would do the same.

Sincerely,

Your Name and Address

BOB MOTOUFI
98-360 KAM HWY AIEA HI 96701

LATE

From: areed@hawaiiantel.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:27 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793: Please do not increase the GET

Angela Reed
204 So. Kalaheo Avenue
Kailua, HI 96734-2931

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses large and small are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

The residents of the State of Hawaii cannot endure more tax increases. Both taxes and the cost of living are already too high! Please look elsewhere for ways to balance the budget.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Angela Reed

LATE

From: signe.godfrey@olsten.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:32 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Help Small Businesses by Opposing a GET Incease

Signe Godfrey
900 Fort Street Mall, Suite 1200
Honolulu, HI 96813-3716

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

My business is ready struggling to stay afloat with the increase in unemployment, our tough economic climate and with the Japan disaster, we are trying our best to provide benefits to our employees and finding it hard to avoid job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Signe Godfrey
523-3313

From: Tim Siver [torahtim@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:27 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: get tax increase

please be advised
i oppose the get tax increase

signed
timothy m siver
retired high school principal

LATE

From: vicki.nelson@punakamaliiflowers.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:37 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to a GET Increase

Vicki Nelson
16-211 Kalara Street
Keaau, HI 96749-8005

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

This would only cause many business' to go under and may be mine included.
A GET increase should be out of the question if you want private businesses to survive.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Vicki L. Nelson
808-982-8322

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:40 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: Kahiki45@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Emmett Lee Loy
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: Kahiki45@gmail.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

I oppose any increase in the GE tax and instead urge our State officials to raid the set aside gouged from Oahu tax payers to fund a rail system that will be obsolete IF it is built.

And, which the Federal Government has no money to fund either.

Considering the brink of Federal Government shutdown right now, no fool in their right mind would think they would be paying for the make work project for the politically connected guised as Rail.

More directly, at a time and moment when our local island economy is tanking, the last thing you all should be doing is taking more money out of the economic engine by way of taxes.

Governor Abecrombie's "Panic Mode" button of increasing taxes just because he is nervous, does not reflect a character of leadership necessary to steer us through these times laden with entitlement leaning union working stiffs refusing to negotiate pay cuts WHEN EVERYBODY ELSE IS TAKING IT IN THE SHORTS.

NO TAX INCREASES whether GE or whatever.

Aloha,

Emmett E. Lee Loy

1

From: signe.godfrey@olsten.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:52 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to a GET Increase

Signe Godfrey
2761 Laniloa Road
Honolulu, HI 96813-1041

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

So many businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and now with the Japan disaster. We are doing our best in continuing to provide benefits for our employees and avoiding job cuts.

Merely keeping up with operating expenses and the increased unemployment has been difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Signe Godfrey
523-3313

LATE

From: rita@ritacouryphotography.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:52 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793: Please do not increase the GET

Rita Coury
PO BOX 372085
Honolulu, HI 96837-2085

April 5, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Rita Coury
808-744-8989

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:57 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: dbf574@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Isabelo Morales
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: dbf574@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

I believe that now is not an appropriate time to decrease the amount of money the taxpayers will be allowed to keep when they are already cutting back on their expenditures just to be able to meet basic needs without themselves becoming dependant on the public trough thereby exacerbating the budget problem. We do not wish to become part of the problem, we wish to be part of the solution! There's a proposal to reduce the debt without raising taxes, let's try it.

From: guya@nogins.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 6:12 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Help Small Businesses by Opposing a GET Incease

Guy Amimoto
347 Puiwa Rd.
Honolulu, HI 96817-1178

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Guy T Amimoto

From: michael_van@thewsp.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 6:17 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to a GET Increase

Michael Van
2244 Jennie st.
Honolulu, HI 96819-3606

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Michael Van

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 6:20 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: mauiart1@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Art & Deborah Manzano
Organization: Hope Chapel
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: mauiart1@gmail.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

Aloha Elected officials,

Please do not raise taxes on us... We are so strapped already. Let's think out of the box and I know we can come up with better solutions. A win win solution.

Mahalo,
Art & Deborah Manzano

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 6:31 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: richard-fong@usa.net
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: RICHARD W W FONG
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: richard-fong@usa.net
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

What happen to all the Democratic campaign promises to 1) Cut spending and 2) not raise taxes? First our newly elected Governor raids our State's "rainy day funds" including the hurricane relief fund. Then he wants to increase the already high tax on gasoline. Now the Democratic Hawaii legislature wants to increase the insidious General Excise Tax on business income by 1%. This seemingly small 1% is, in actuality, a HUGE increase because of the insidious ways the GETax really works.

It is NOT a sales tax on final sales of goods, as is typical of mainland states. With the exception earned income, our Hawaii GETax applies to "virtually every economic activity imaginable", including services, rents, interest, commissions and other forms of income, and it's net effect is compounding. On its most visible retail sales level, our current 4.5% GETax to the Retailer business becomes a 4.712% reimbursement pass-on expense to the customer. Prior to this retail level, there may have been a 1/2% GETax on the import of such goods into the state, and the Wholesaler probably added his own 4.712% GETax reimbursement pass-on expense to the Retailer. This is the compounding effect, which I prefer to call a "tax on a tax on a tax.....".

In fact, our old 4% "GETax is equivalent to approximately an 11% sales tax - if we actually had a sales tax that worked like the typical mainland sales tax". Need I mention the tremendous administrative burden needed to keep track, calculate, fill out GETax reports, reconcile and pay the GETax. In addition, a year ago, the Hawaii Tax Department required reports and payments be made by the 20th of the following month instead of at the end of the following month. What a headache this has been for me, and I am certain, for most other businesses also.

In summary: CUT SPENDING. NO NEW TAXES. DO NOT INCREASE THE GETAX.

From: Tom Hopkins [onfloat@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 6:33 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: Rep. Kymberly Pine
Subject: Against Raising the G.E. Tax

Distinguished Senator,

I'm writing to let you know that I oppose raising the G.E. tax. It concerns me that we are still increasing our spending with the state budget and having to raise taxes. It is time to reduce our spending and balance the budget with the taxes that have already been imposed. This will mean tough choices on programs, but those are the type of decisions that are made everyday by our families. I cannot ask my boss for a raise simply because my bills are more than I expected. If the taxes keep increasing I will have to seek another place to live.

respectfully,
Thomas D. Hopkins
91-867 Puhikani Street
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706

LATE

From: wardjward@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 6:40 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: Rep. Gene Ward; Rep. Kymberly Pine; Sen. Carol Fukunaga; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: G.E. Tax Increase / NO!

Importance: High

Senators & Representative for the State Of Hawaii:

If We need more money then forget the rail system. Use that money for our current needs. Not something that most of us will never see completed or ride on. We are already burdened with to many taxes & costs,(Increased Medical Insurance, Fed tax Hidenin

James Ward
1120 Hassingewr St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

690-6344

From: John Ellis [jellis@lava.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 6:42 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: GET Increase - I am against it

We pay too mcu in taxes and both the state and federal governments have enough of our money. Cutting non-prioritized spending should be the focus in order to balance the budget.

Thank you,

John Ellis

From: Crystal Scurr, MFT, SAP, CSAC [crystalscurr@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 6:50 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Do Not Raise the GET

Aloha-

I am writing as a sole proprietor and single mother to two sons with regards to the consideration to raise Hawaii's GET.

The GET is one of the most hideous of taxes. Raising it right now will cause my business and family to suffer.

As a healthcare provider I generally must accept the rates health insurance companies set in my contract when I become a provider on a panel. None of the rates i receive from insurance companies have been raised in the past few years. Even Hawaii insurance companies and medicaid rates have remained the same or fallen. However, before I can pay any of the other rising costs of doing business in Hawaii I must pay the GET right off the top. National insurance companies do not consider this in the rates they set for my services. So raising the amount of tax I must pay is akin to taking more food out of my mouth and making it even more painful to pay gas at over \$4 a gallon. I will need to decrease the number of Med-quest clients I see and consider terminating my contracts.

I am confident the legislature can find other ways such as cutting costs to balance the budget. Raising the GET should not ever be a consideration.

Crystal Scurr, MFT, CSAC
5514 Bittern Ave
Ewa Beach, HI
(808) 343-9049

From: Esper Resayo [espergo@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 6:26 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Proposed GE Tax Increase

Dear Sir/Madam,

The people of Hawaii are already taxed "out of their ears" for their hard earned money. Let's look at ways to cut spending and government waste as the number one priority. The state can save money if we look hard enough at all the erroneous/duplicate spending. Perhaps, it's time to manage the government work force where pay is relative to performance. The government has a "bottomless financial pit" that there is no such thing as working for the bottom line, as long as pay checks and pay scales are automatic. Pay for team or individual productivity not because someone may or may NOT show up for work. The government motto should be "No job performance, no pay"

Let's not leave a stone unturned, so many loopholes for the rich and privileged! Don't cut programs for the poor and disadvantaged who are in most need! Where's your compassion and especially OHANA to the under privilege people of Hawaii.

Thank you so much for your help!

Sincerely,
Antonio and Esper Resayo

LATE

From: Frank Winczner [frankgelyn1301@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 6:52 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: GET TAX INCREASE

CUT SPENDING MORE! GET RID OF TAX EXEMPTIONS AND CREDITS.....DO NOT INCREASE THE GET!!!

FRANK & ANGIE WINCZNER
91-828 Launahele St
Ewa Beach, Hi 96706

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:00 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: hhartmann@paragonmetals.biz
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Hanni Hartmann
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: hhartmann@paragonmetals.biz
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:
Stop this tax hike
There is enough fat and waste to be cut to come to orderly business

Mahalo for your consideration

From: Bob weeks [weeksr001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:01 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Tax increase

Senators,

I am not in favor of your raising the GE Tax. I only hear that we don't have enough money but I don't hear any ways that you plan to cut spending. How about doing that first with tax increases as a last resort. I know that the unions support you folks during "election" time but the taxpayers of the state did not put you into office to represent the Unions. You represent ME. Please do so.

Thanks you,

Robert Weeks

LATE

From: gsmith016@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:06 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Oppose G.E.T. hike

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I am a concerned tax paying citizen who cannot understand how our trusted elected legislators could consider raising the general excise tax on all hard working people (public and private sectors)during this difficult and trying economic times. I ask you to oppose Bill 739 and any other attempts to raise the general excise tax. Please help find other ways to make ends meet. In our own households, we need to cut back and spend wisely. Treat the tax payer dollars as if it were your own.

I respectfully request that instead of increasing taxes, you look at ways for government to tighten its belt. I have always tried to budget and spend what I have. I have suffered furloughs over the last two years, and adjusted my family's budget accordingly. I hope that government would do the same.

Sincerely,

Gail Smith
4252 Puu Pinao Place
Koloa, Kauai, Hawaii

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:07 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: markhubbard@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mark Hubbard
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: markhubbard@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

I oppose an increase to the GE tax. If you must increase taxes, then use a vehicle that hurts the poor less.
Thank you.
Aloha,
Mark

From: hhartmann@paragonmetals.biz
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:07 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Help Small Businesses by Opposing a GET Incease

Hanni Hartmann
139 Makaweli
Honolulu, HI 96825-2143

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Hanni Hartmann
808-396-5412

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:08 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: armltd@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Miller
Organization: Pizza Bob's In Haleiwa
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: armltd@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 793.

Raising the GE Tax will damage our already strained economy. The only question is how much.

There has never been an incidence of a tax increase leading to an improved economy.

There have been numerous examples of lowered taxes leading to prosperous times.

We all recognize the need for a balanced budget, but if you are unwilling to cut taxes to stimulate the economy, additional taxes are not the answer. Our current level of tax revenue was sufficient to support our state spending just a few years ago. We need to pull an old budget off the shelf and ratchet back our spending to a level we can afford.

No more taxes. Stimulate businesses not government.

From: Howard Littell [captlittell@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:09 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Sales Tax, not excise tax

The difference is Sale Tax only applies to what on buys and it is the fair way to allow one to control their spending. And a Sales Tax can be monitor by the people when they buy or do not buy.2% sales tax would bring in enough to cover the needed funds And putting the Rail on Hold for two years would also save money

Capt Bill Littell. The voter can control a Sales Tax,were a Excise Tax gets control by the legislature/

From: Annie Clay [aclay@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:13 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: No to HB 739

Please do NOT raise the G.E.T. We know the tsunami and earthquakes in Japan affects us and our economy greatly, raising taxes at this time would be counter-productive. Thank you.

A. Clay

HGEA Union Member against raising taxes

LATE

From: Ardie Cooper [ardie.cooper@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:19 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: In Opposition: HB793

Re: HB793, 4/6/11 9:30am

I oppose HB793 which proposes to both suspend tax exemptions until 2015 and increase the GE tax by 1 percent until 2013.

Ardath Cooper
225-6945

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:20 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: ken@hikemaui.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kenneth Schmitt
Organization: Hike Maui
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ken@hikemaui.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

State government is too large and needs to be greatly reduced. Spending is out of control. The state also owns too much residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural land that should be sold before any tax increases should be considered.

LATE

From: Bill Public [billpublic@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:25 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: *****SPAM***** ABSOLUTELY NO TO HB793> READ MY LIPS> YOU ARE NOT FEELING OUR PAIN- NO MORE TAXES PLEASE

W&M Committee;

With all due respect, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ?? The public is doing with less and scrounging to make ends meet and you are considering raising the GE Tax ?!!

I know you are subject be influenced by very powerful lobbyists to balance the budget by increasing revenue through the GE tax but this wrong and immoral. The budget gap can be closed by cuts in expenditures. You know it and the citizens of Hawaii know it (ie. the emperor NO LONGER has clothes).

Please sincerely reflect on this and represent your community and not succumb to the lobbyists (eg UPW etc) Also consider the VOTERS will NOT forget this.

A taxpayer of Kailua,

William(Bill) Wanner, P.E.
96734

LATE

From: kalanikaahanui@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:32 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Help Small Businesses by Opposing a GET Incease

Kalani Kaahanui
3075 Ala Poha Pl #204
Honolulu, HI 96818-1680

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Kalani Kaahanui

LATE

From: garryc@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:32 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793: Please do not increase the GET

Garry Corwin
2111 Skyline Dr
Honolulu, HI 96817-1524

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Garry L. Corwin
2566955

LATE

From: Suqian Jin [sh7201@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:33 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB793,SD1

Do not increase GET, it will hurt businesses and people of Hawaii, just make our government smaller by erasing unnecessary programs and personnel, that's the only thing we need to do.
Huasheng Jin, Ewa Beach

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:39 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: mz9995@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Michael Zehner
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: mz9995@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:
I strongly oppose HB793 with SD1.

People are hurting enough in this economy already without doing more harm by increasing the GE tax. Please cut spending instead. The tobacco settlement for example is an excellent place to get money from.

Mahalo, Michael Zehner
Member of Honolulu Neighborhood Board #11 Honolulu, HI

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:39 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: mz9995@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Michael Zehner
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: mz9995@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:
I strongly oppose HB793 with SD1.

People are hurting enough in this economy already without doing more harm by increasing the GE tax. Please cut spending instead. The tobacco settlement for example is an excellent place to get money from.

Mahalo, Michael Zehner
Member of Honolulu Neighborhood Board #11 Honolulu, HI

LATE

From: Ruth Brown [brownr100@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:42 PM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: HB793

I am firmly against raising the General Excise Tax in any manner. Hawaii can no longer attempt to tax and spend its way to a balanced budget or prosperity. Instead we need real leadership that will shrink our "government footprint." These are extreme times--I am waiting to see if my husband will be furloughed on Friday, because Congress has been negligent in passing a responsible budget--and it is time to take extreme measures against our debt. Yet despite recession, a falling housing market, international tourist repercussions, and more bubbles waiting to burst, the Hawaiian legislature wants to increase our tax load again. Can you not see what is wrong with that picture?

Perhaps it seems simple, but I know that if my family were short on money that I would not have the option of asking our children to give us more. Instead, I would need to cut our budget closer to the bone. Is it a need or is it a want? If gas continues rising, how much can we cut back on using the car? Perhaps our menus will have to include more rice and beans for a time. Why is our government so unwilling to cut back?

The idea of maintaining the status quo or growing the government is simply a want that cannot and should not be maintained.

I urge you to vote against HB 793.

From: jack.tyrrell@jtchawaii.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:42 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793: Please do not increase the GET

John Tyrrell
1288 Ala Moana #4A
honolulu, HI 96814-4290

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

It's time to be creative rather than relying on simply raising GE Tax. How about stimulating our economy and growing the tax base or cutting costs of government???

Thanks for your service to our community - we are grateful for your efforts.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

John (aka"Jack") Tyrrell

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:44 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: suiteiness@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Annie Suite
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: suiteiness@gmail.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

LATE

From: karen.james@geminitech.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:57 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793: Please do not increase the GET

Karen James
94-1221 Ka Uka Blvd
Waipahu, HI 96797-6202

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

My name is Karen James and I am CEO of GeminiTech a local small computer firm. I employ 10 persons.

Small businesses like ours have to compete everyday for the lowest perceived sticker price. We sell to state agencies every day and penies can make the difference between an out of state online purchase and a locally based purchase.

In addition, the flow down theory in economics means that my employees will need a 1% higher income just to allow them to buy basic items such as groceries. I can't afford a 1% increase at this time. I just had to apply pay cuts! It is all about flow down to other businesses, and then to my business as we take flow down from buyers.

It may not seem like alot but small business owners take every penny very seriously.

Your rounding error is more our income!

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Respectfully

Karen James
808-843-1000

LATE

From: elizabethomalley@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:57 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: A GET Increase will Hurt Small Businesses: Oppose HB 793

Elizabeth O'Malley
204 So. Kalaheo Avenue
Kailua, HI 96734-2931

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

I oppose increasing the GET. Hawaii residents are already over-taxed.
Please find ways to cut government spending to balance the budget.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank
you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Elizabeth O'Malley

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:59 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: monahang001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Guy Monahan
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: monahang001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

For those of you that support HB 793, do you understand that the people who are still working can no longer afford our state's budget in its current condition?. Have you forgotten that it is private business that ultimately pays your salaries? Or are you that completely immersed in your hubris that you cannot grasp basic economic reality? If you continue down this road of levying a new tax every time that government ignores its fiduciary duty and squanders funds on its own wasteful organization, the people who have the skills and knowledge to create things and services of real value, will go out of business or leave the state. If no one can realize benefit from an economy burdened by oppressive government regulation and confiscatory taxation then you will not have a tax base. Your source of revenue will be what you can squeeze out of our broke federal government treasury and the remaining larger corporations and wealthier individuals that can still dig into their pockets. This is not a formula for a thriving, dynamic economy.

LATE

I oppose any new taxes, user fees and especially a hike in the Excise Tax. I work in the construction industry. Our company sells and installs windows. For the last two years business has been down by 40% and we are all working harder and longer for less money. Here in Hawaii, government continues to grow. We are going to go broke like other states if we keep this up.

I oppose HB 793 because it will hurt business more and everyone will be hurt by it.

Hawaii's government needs to be smaller and taxes need to be lowered. Stop raising taxes – it is killing business which kills jobs which will send us into a tigher spot next year. The time to cut budgets and reduce government is now.

Robert Abbett
Kailua. HI

LATE

From: pyomalley@hotmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:02 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793: Please do not increase the GET

Patty O'Malley
204 So. Kalaheo Avenue
Kailua, HI 96734-2931

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

I am opposed to increased taxes. Hawaii residents already pay high taxes and fees. Please streamline government to balance the budget instead.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Patty O'Malley

From: Wailana Kamauu [wailanakamauu@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:07 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793

*Aloha Senators,
I oppose increasing the excise tax by 25% as proposed in HB 793. I believe there is a solution that will not increase the excise tax and still meet our states financial.*

Mahalo

H. Wailana Kamauu, jr.

Ewa Beach, HI

808.286.8893

--

H. Wailana Kamauu, Jr.

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LATE

From: expert@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:09 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB739

Senators and Representatives, I am writing in opposition to HB739 and the proposed increase in the GE tax. I am requesting that before any tax increase is considered, you should first work on making government a better steward of the already exhorbitant taxes that are collected from us the hard working citizens. As representatives of the people your obligation is to all taxpayers and not only to public worker union bosses and their cohorts in the private sector. Unions represent 24% of our work force. How about for once you consider the other 76% for a change.

Sincerely, Keith Smith, 4252 Puu Pinao Pl., Koloa, HI 96756

LATE

From: ronmoore@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:17 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: A GET Increase will Hurt Small Businesses: Oppose HB 793

Scotty Moore
84-457 Farrington hwy
Waianae, HI 96792-1943

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Scotty Moore
808 306-2870

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:27 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: larsenl@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lance Larsen
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: larsenl@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

I strongly oppose any increase to Hawaii's regressive General Excise Tax (GET).

From: jyrkchun@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:27 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB.793: Please do not increase the GET

Janis Chun
46-018 Kamehameha Hwy #207
Kaneohe, HI 96744-3712

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

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Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Janis Chun
(808) 384-2486

From: Gary Johnson [waikikigary@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:28 PM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: No GET Increase

All members of the Senate and House:

Balance the budget without raising taxes. Pretend you are running a business and cut controllable costs assuming you are not going to be able to grow your top line. Figure it out. Get rid of some of the entitlements.

I am very much against taking more money out of the pockets of our hard working families. It has been proven that the budget can be balanced without a GE Tax increase – it's time that such an idea be put to rest.

W. Gary Johnson
91-1321 Kaileolea Drive
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
808-265-1021
waikikigary@yahoo.com

From: cindy@cindyogata.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:32 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793: Please do not increase the GET

Cindy Ogata
3161 Ala Ilima St. 104
Honolulu, HI 96818-3009

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Therapeutic Touch of Health is a family massage business that helps provide employment opportunities to a few massage therapists. Increasing the taxes will put a burden on me, the owner, to right size our spending which may reduce the number to hours these therapist may get. We are working hard to get our lead therapist out of the poverty level so she can be self sufficient. Increasing taxes could be the difference between me paying taxes versus paying my therapist.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I am against raising increasing the GET.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Cindy Ogata
(808) 836-1490

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:40 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: JoeWHI@Aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Joseph Wills
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: JoeWHI@Aol.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:
I oppose this bill

LATE

From: Jodi & Tim [takaetzut001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:46 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793 Proposed SD1; Wednesday, 4/6/2011 9:30 a.m.

I oppose the suspension of the GET exemptions and the GET increases. We should not be spending beyond our means and need to make the hard, but necessary choices to get our State's fiscal house in order. Do not put off these decisions and take the "easy" way out.

Sincerely,
Jodi Lam

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:48 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: jodi.tim@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jodi Lam
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jodi.tim@gmail.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

I oppose the suspension of the GET exemptions and the GET increases. We should not be spending beyond our means and need to make the hard, but necessary choices to get our State's fiscal house in order. Do not put off these decisions and take the "easy" way out.

LATE

From: solomonsays@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:50 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: All Senators; All Reps
Subject: HB 793 SD1

To whom it may concern,

As a voter in Hawaii I feel that I need to speak what is in my heart. I believe that HB 793 SD1 is bad, because we cannot be increasing the GET. I feel that increasing taxes and fees are not the way to solve Hawaii's financial woes. With the recent tragedy in Japan, we are learning not to put all our eggs in one basket but to invest in other ways to bring business back to Hawaii. I believe that we need to support small business and help them grow, we need the support of small business to make our economy strong. I also suggestion to have a gradual tax scale, the more money a person or business makes, the more taxes is paid. For example, a person making \$10,000/year would pay 4% tax while a person making \$100,000/year would pay 7% tax. Another suggestion is to limit giving government help to people who only want to milk the system, there are people who only want freebies and in turn do not want to work or go to school. You might want to limit the amount of help the government will give to these people. You might want to add the condition of working at least 10 hours a week or going to school part time. The bottom line if they can work even for an hour a day, they should in order to get government help. They are being productive and giving back to the system. We need to find new and creative ways to bring revenue back to the state, and not just keep increasing taxes and fees. Thank you and God bless.

Sincerely,

Alan Kim

1226 Nani Ihi Ave
Wahiawa HI 96786
387-4174

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 8:54 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: surfmililani@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James Whitfield
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: surfmililani@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

From: mdrageset@ifshawaii.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:07 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to a GET Increase

Milton Drageset
801 Kaluanui Rd.
Honolulu, HI 96825-1355

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Mahalo,

Milton Drageset
808-782-6672

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:19 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: ekomomai@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bob Bretschneider
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ekomomai@aol.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:
Please do not increase the GET tax

Bob

From: bornsinging@gmail.com on behalf of Christine Villaflor [christinevillaflor@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:20 PM
To: All Reps; All Senators; WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793 Testimony

To whom it may concern,

It is my testimony regarding HB793 is plain and simple. Taking more money out of the pockets of our hard working families is wrong. In my household, when money is tight we don't run out and borrow money and we certainly do not take what is NOT OURS. We cut back, spend less, and often times simply do without until we get back on our feet.

Maybe that makes too much sense.

I'm sick and tired of my government spending like a drunken sailor then leaving US to pay the bill. Aren't you people ashamed of yourselves? Where is all of this money going to? A rail system NO ONE WILL USE? Paychecks for state employees who whine and complain about benefits and pay that others can only dream of? Shame.....

I don't have much faith in you folks doing the right thing here.... it seldom happens in government, but I felt the need to make my voice heard anyway. So there.

Thank you for your time.

Christine Villaflor
91-811 Apoke Place
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
(808) 225-4462

From: steve@island-realestate.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:22 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: A GET Increase will Hurt Small Businesses: Oppose HB 793

Steven Jaquess
PO Box 213
Maunaloa, HI 96770-0213

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

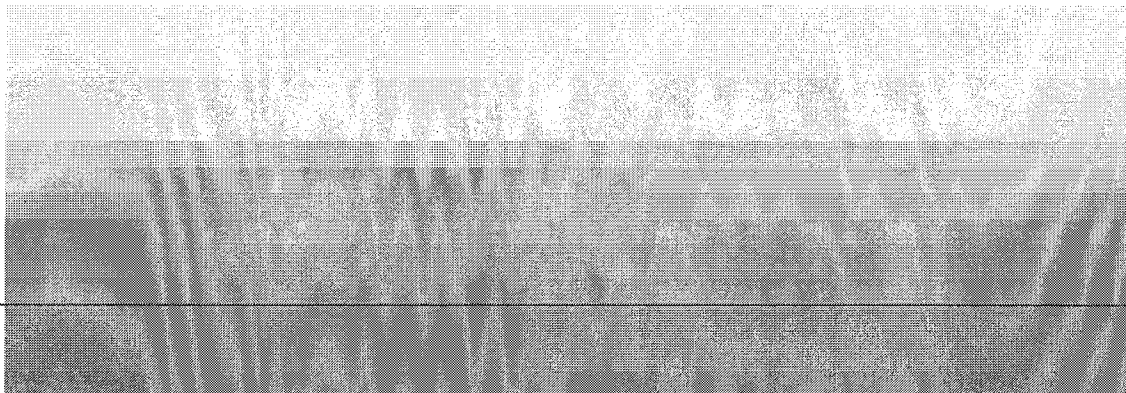
Sincerely,

Steven Jaquess
808 552 2800

LATE

TESTIMONY TRANSMITTAL COVER

To:	Senate Ways and Means	Date	04/05/2011
From:	Winton G. Schoneman	486-9269	
Re:	HB793 SD1- Relating to Increase in General Excise Tax	Hearing Date:	Wednesday; April 65, 2011
Page(s):	3 including cover	Time:	9:30 AM



Senator David Ige - Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani – Vice Chair
Senate Ways and Means Committee

Winton G. Schoneman, 486-9269 (H)

Wednesday; April 6, 2011

In opposition to House Bill 793 SD1 Proposed – Temporary Increase in General Excise Tax

Distinguished members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, I come before you to offer testimony in opposition to House Bill 793 – to raise the General Excise Tax for a finite period of time and eliminate exemptions previously allowed.

I am a small business owner in Hawaii Kai. I operate an ice cream shop that employs one full time and seven part time people. Two of my employees rely on this job to pay their way through college, one relies on it for living expenses at home and medical/dental insurance and one supplements her family's income while she goes to school. I am currently working on renewing my lease with the shopping center owner. And I have serious concerns that I will not be able to stay within my budget based on all the things that are happening in business. My experience is that inflation is much greater than expected. Sugar has gone up...dairy product has gone up...gas prices have certainly gone up...electricity has gone up significantly. Yet, I just can't raise my prices to recover lost revenue. Many products that we produce in Hawaii are not consumer staples...we rely on discretionary spending. A quick calculation tells me that I will have to pay over \$5,000.00 in additional GET on rent, utilities, services and products not eligible for resale. With the current state of the economy I must live/work within my means. My choices may include lay-offs, reducing my one full time person with medical to part time, not renewing my lease and closing. As I look around the shopping center I see several spaces vacated within the last two years and they have not been filled...I also have reliable information that Papa John's Pizza in the center is closing at the end of the month. While a GET increase may help the state balance the budget, it will devastate Hawaii's fragile business economy. We will lose restaurants, hard good stores like jewelry shops, clothing stores, dentists, veterinary services...so much more.

Second part. GET exemptions...I am generally speaking against preferential treatment...business must compete on a level playing field. That being said, I believe that if the airline industry in Hawaii loses its exemption, airline ticket prices will increase significantly...operations may move to another state along with employment. I read the 2005-2007 Tax Commission Review by the Department of Taxation. It supports my conclusions. This will have a significant negative impact on employment, interisland transportation of people and goods, as well as our ability to travel to the mainland economically.

All the while the government work force continues to grow or at least remain at a high level. The US Dept. of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that Hawaii, with a civilian work force of approximately 630,000, government employment grew from 124,600 in Sept of 2010 to 125,100 in Feb.

2011. In fact the government work force in Hawaii has remained relatively constant at about 125,000 all during the recession (reached a low of 122K Aug of 2010). I thought we had a reduction in force but as far as I can tell most state employees were just moved to other positions. It also means that one in every six employees is a government employee and that is certainly not sustainable on taxes paid by the people of Hawaii.

Yet, I believe there is so much more that we can do to make our state government more efficient. State government must live with the revenues available and not always look to the people for more. I was driving down Kam highway a couple of months ago. Something must have spilled and DOT workers were cleaning it up...two guys with brooms sweeping the absorbent material back and forth while two others watched. I was shopping at Costco at about 3PM when I saw a state truck parked in the lot with someone sleeping in the driver's seat...while I was loading my stuff into my car a state employee came with a shopping cart filled with beer, chips and other groceries. Just this last week, I was driving by Aiea Intermediate School and I saw three city employees cleaning a street sign with a brush; you guessed it two watching...one cleaning. This is but a few of the much inefficiency we see every day. State government can become more efficient and reduce costs.

Simple suggestions that businesses do all the time:

1. Put a travel log in state vehicles. Monitor travel and ensure employees are where they are supposed to be.
2. Reduce the "supervisor" to worker ratio. Send the appropriate number of employees to job. Overall reduce the number of government employees.
3. Monitor employees by GPS or other technology.

Business can help as well, without increase in taxes. The state needs to become more efficient in tax collections. Most of my wholesalers are good about differentiating between what is eligible for the wholesale tax rate and what is not...the big box Costco and Sam's Club is not. We lose millions of dollars a year from people who do not pay the correct amount and from people who are simply not eligible. I have seen many instances of people saying that something is for resale when it is simply not...example a flat screen TV. In many cases a GET license is no longer valid, yet when you renew your Costco card, you are never asked to show a current GET...nor are you asked to renew it with the state.

The last thing I would like to say is that I don't believe for a minute that the increase in GET will drop back to 4%...ever. If we cannot make the difficult choices to cut government to currently sustainable levels, once we get comfortable with the increased revenue the state will not give it up and make the increase permanent. We see this happen all too often where a "sunset clause" is simply a vote away to make it permanent.

I thank the committee for listening to my concerns and I implore the members of the committee to vote NO on HB793 SD1

Thank you,

Winton Schoneman

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:48 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: kawikc@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: kawika crowley
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: kawikc@aol.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

I vehemently oppose this bill...you have taxed us citizens until we have lost our shirts...and now you want us to lose our pants...i suggest that YOU drop your pants first, cut off the damn fat and slop surrounding this obese government beast, before you ask us to drop ours!!!

From: RolandSimeonsson@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:57 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: All Senators; All Reps
Subject: Opposed to increase of General Excise tax

We are newcomers to Hawaii, only been here for two years. Had a parttime job for which we had to pay General Excise Tax for the past two years. Add to that the state tax, federal income tax plus sales tax a combined burden that does not need to be increased. Have you ever heard or read about the STRAW THAT BROKE THE CAMEL'S BACK? Please stop the madness, we are taxed enough.

Roland & Sandra Simeonsson

From: fccadizpal@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:01 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: Sen. David Ige; Sen. Will Espero; Rep. Marcus Oshiro; "repmanahan "@capitol.hawaii.gov;
Rep. K. Mark Takai
Subject: HB703 SB1

April 5, 2011

Dear Chairman and Committee Member,

I DO NOT support the subject bill before you to raise the GE Taxes until all other options to reduce government expenditures to include furloughs and layoff of government employees and/or their respective benefits (to include yourselves) have been explored.

I would like to believe that as elected representatives of the people, all of you are fiscally responsible and are not spending "beyond your means" in your personal life tethering on the brink of bankruptcy.

Why not apply the the same principle you practice at home for your personal finances to the state budget?

The State of Hawaii CANNOT continue to have champagne tastes on a beer budget.

The choices presented by this bill is like asking a person on death row a preference for his execution; there is really no choice as the end result will be the same - his death.

The raise in the GET will be a "slow death" for the residents and visitors to the State because the domino effect will suffocate the financial breath from all of us not only for now but for years to come!

Respectfully,

Fred Cadiz

LATE

Hawaii State Legislature
c/o Senate Ways and Means Committee

April 5, 2011

Dear Hawaii State Legislators,

We address this letter to all of the State Legislators that were elected to represent all of the people of this island state. We have lived in Hawaii our entire lives and currently plan on living here for the rest of our lives. We have been fortunate enough and have been blessed with supportive parents that have allowed us to purchase our new home and we have been blessed with our second child. We both work full time and are lucky enough to have retired parents that are able to assist us with childcare.

The fact that we are writing this letter is testimony in that the hearing of this bill is being done at a time when the majority of the people that this bill will affect are hard at work trying to keep food on the table and a roof over their heads. We would think that an organization such as the Legislature that was designed and developed to serve the people would do so in a manner that was most accessible to the people that it serves. The fact that this hearing is done so in the middle of the week during normal working hours only serves to reinforce the impression that this body of government is not truly interested in what the people truly have to say. It's a wonder that people my age are so disenchanted with government that many of our friends don't bother to vote. Hearings like this really say, "We will make it look like we are interested in how you feel".

We are entirely blown away that at this time, in these economic conditions that an increase to the general excise tax would even be considered. It really questions if all of you are aware of what it is like out there for the rest of us living in this state. Being new homeowners, we are both learning VERY quickly that sacrifices need to be made. Having both had high credit card balances, we learned the hard way what happens when we aren't willing to make those sacrifices and we choose to live outside of our means. We have in the past e-mailed State Senator Taniguchi who regarding GET increases in which his reply was that it is a negligible burden that we all should share. We were completely blown away that he had that attitude and was oblivious to the simple fact that for fixed income household that have the same needs as another household with more discretionary spending, the GET increase would have a larger impact.

We are stumped as to why the Hawaii State Legislature cannot accept the simple fact that if the current budget doesn't balance, the answer is not to tax us more, its to CUT SPENDING! When we sit down and do our household budget and we calculate our mortgage, our utility bills, food, gas, medical expenses and pampers (we have 2 kids in diapers), if we have a negative sign in front of the number before us we don't go out and tax someone else. We dig deep and look for ways to cut. We take home lunches to work, we take off the snacks from our grocery list, start cutting coupons, in other words, we DO NOT have the ability get any more money. We have to live within our means. We are told that we ALL need to make sacrifices in this economic means, that we all need to

share the burden, that we all need to tighten our belts. What happens when our belts are on the last loop? No one has answered that? Go on public assistance? Become another burden to the state's budget?

We recently started to look at whether we would be able to afford a new car. We did our online research, went to the auto show, sat in a few cars and fell in love with several. Then we crunched the numbers and got REALLY HONEST with ourselves on what we could afford. We looked at car payments, insurance, gas mileage and the fact that in a few years we would have 2 kids in preschool. We soon realized that the car we wanted to get was no longer an option. Could we have swung it right now? Yes, but in 2 years, with preschool expenses mounting, it would not have been responsible. So the car that we will most likely purchase will be something that is less than what we want but it will meet our needs. Are we totally happy? No. Are we being responsible? Absolutely. We share this only to plead that you all look at what we REALLY NEED in the state government. What are the basic fundamental things that are NEEDED? In the end will we all be happy? Absolutely not! Programs will need to get cut, maybe surcharges for non-essential services, but in the end of the day it would be a responsible thing to do to ensure that the government is living within their means. If the government doesn't have enough to fund itself, then it's too big for itself. We are grown adults and we are responsible for ourselves. Government doesn't need to provide every single service for me. Really, we plead that you all really think about why government is there. What are the essential things that government should provide? We know that cuts can be made that would be sufficient to prevent the GET increase.

Sincerely,
Jon & Leanne Shiota

LATE

From: Eric K [ericmk808@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:07 PM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: I strongly disapprove of HB 793, SD1

I strongly disapprove of HB 793, SD1.
Thank you

From: Elaine Brown [elainebrown@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:15 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Please do NOT raise the GET

Aloha Senators,

The down economy is affecting my household and I am not spending money other than for the very basics. I have minimized my spending for the last year and yet need to cut back even more and will possibly get a pay cut from my job. You need to do your part and lower expenditures NOT raise taxes. I'd rather have less service from the government than pay more taxes. I also think the Legislature, Governor, and Governor's executive team should all get a pay cut too just to show sacrifices is made at the top.

Respectfully yours,

Elaine Brown

Hawaii voter

LATE

From: ckolona@kolonapgc.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:17 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793: Please do not increase the GET

Carol Kolona
P.O. Box 4189
Waianae, HI 96792-7189

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Carol & Blake Kolona

From: John Woodruff [mauiwoods2@msn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:18 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: GET Increase

I am utterly opposed to ANY increase in the GE tax rate at this time. Passing ECON-1 in HIGH School should tell you that increasing taxes SLOWS DOWN an economy, and doesn't increase economic recovery. PLEASE do NOT increase any taxes until the economy is stronger.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John M. Woodruff
173 W. Kamakoi Loop
Kihei, Hawaii 96753

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:27 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: ted@alohaconnect.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ted Sturdivant
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ted@alohaconnect.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:
I oppose HB793

From: nateburgoyne@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:27 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793: Please do not increase the GET

Nate Burgoyne
P.O. Box 706
Haleiwa, HI 96712-0706

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Between my wife and I, we own and operate 3 small businesses here in Hawaii on the island of Oahu.

Over the last month I have been considering expanding my business to hire my first 2 employees. This bill has made me reconsider because of the instability and unpredictable nature of our taxes.

How can a small business owner plan for long term growth not knowing if taxes are going to go up without warning.

To pass this and make it effective the same year would be absolutely ridiculous.

What business owner planned his or her budgeting for 2011 with a cushion of 1% just in case the government decides to pull a fast one and raise taxes that are almost effective immediately? None.

The trust of the business owner has been lost when the emergency relief funds were diverted and used elsewhere. Now, with talk of diverting the rail funds funds we've been paying to be used elsewhere, whether it's true or not, I'm confident that I'm not alone when I say that my perception is the government is using one cheap trick after another to extract money from local businesses and use it wherever they want it.

If you pass this this tax increase bill, you'll be biting the hand that

feeds you. And eventually, that hand will run its business off island where taxes are reasonable and predictable.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Nate Burgoyne

LATE

The State of Hawaii should not continue to grow and grow and increase its cost to the hardworking taxpayers of Hawaii. At a time where so many residents are hurting financially and struggling with lower wages and higher costs of gasoline, food, health care and other necessities, the State government should be controlling it's costs rather than taking another bite out of it's residents' shrinking income.

My wife is a DOE teacher who has lost 7% of her income to furloughs over the past two years and I am a Federal government employee whose salary is frozen for two years. We are forced to live within our means and the State of Hawaii should too. It is an insult to all Hawaii taxpayers for the Governor to ask for higher taxes while he is proposing a budget with 5% growth in spending. The State government should not ask for one more penny from taxpayers until it at least limits it's spending to last year's levels, just as most taxpayers and families have had to do.

I do believe that the State should control labor costs before raising taxes even though this may not be good for my wife's DOE salary. The runaway cost of employee labor and benefits is simply not sustainable. All those union folk protesting at the Capitol on Tuesday while my wife and I quietly went to work certainly do not speak for us or many others who were silently working to pay our bills and taxes.

If the State increases the cost of everything via a GET hike, families will just spend less and less and the local economy will continue to hurt. Please learn from the 1990-1991 recession. Most mainland States dealt with their budget problems at that time by reducing spending, and the mainland economy rebounded and experienced a decade of high growth. The State of Hawaii, in contrast, just increased taxes to close their 1990-1991 budget deficits and experienced a decade of growth that was so slow and painful that it led to the unthinkable - a Republican governor in Hawaii.

thank you,
Mark Hildebrant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:33 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: wsk001@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: William Kim
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: wsk001@gmail.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:34 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: wsk001@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: William Kim
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: wsk001@gmail.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

From: jeffb@cta.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:37 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Help Small Businesses by Opposing a GET Incease

Jeff Bloom
41-755 Kaulukanu St
WEaimanalo, HI 96795-1427

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Jeff Bloom

LATE

**Christopher Walling
1105 8th Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816**

The Honorable David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Ways and Means Committee
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

WAM Hearing Date: April 6, 2011, 9:30 am State Capitol Auditorium

Subject: OPPOSE as written, House Bill 793 SD1 Relating to Taxation; Section 3
Amending Chapter 237, Hawaii Revised Statutes to temporarily suspend exemption from January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015 for 1) Amounts deducted from the gross income received by contractors as described under section 237-13 (3) (B)

The work you are doing to balance our state budget is important and must be completed successfully. I firmly believe that we as citizens must contribute our fair share to fund services that only the state can provide. Schools, prisons, medical care, roads... ..these are all vital to our community. We must simply find the resources - tax funds - to pay for these services

I am writing to OPPOSE HB 793 SD1 on Taxation whose provisions aim to suspend key exemptions currently afforded to key business areas across the state

The provision within HB 793 SD1 to remove the exemption currently afforded to "contractors" as defined in the Hawaii Revised Statutes (Section 237-13 (03) (B) (i) will specifically cause an adverse effect on our community by unfairly pyramiding taxes on small business. This measure will have a significantly broad and negative effect on our State's overall economy by inhibiting economic growth.

While this measure is proposed to extract additional revenues to address the state's fiscal crisis, it is especially key to note that elimination of this specific exemption and others would come at a bad time as Hawaii's economy struggles to come back from the devastation of economic recession. Eliminating the general excise exemptions for temporary gain may have a significantly dire consequence over the long term. A gross receipts tax, without key exemptions in place, has a well known escalating effect - the well documented "pyramid effect." - that creates an extra layer of taxation at each stage of the product and service life cycle.

We encourage you to seek more economically neutral ways of taxing businesses, and urge you to look deeper at long-term solutions for creating greater efficiencies within the government. This bill has the serious potential of reducing business in a time when Hawaii business needs stimulation. We urge opposition as currently written.

Sincerely,

LATE

DRAFT Testimony on HB793, Proposed SD1 Relating to Taxation

Dear Senator Ige and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

TODD BRANSON STONEWORKS INC.

I am opposed to HB793, Proposed SD1 that seeks to suspend subcontractor deductions. Please note that the subcontractor deduction is not an exemption and that general or prime contractors can deduct the taxes already paid by their subcontractors and sub-subs from their General Excise Tax Liability. This provision is in the tax code to prevent the pyramiding that was unfair to everyone, especially to the general contractors who paid taxes on taxes. In the case of home building, the ultimate consumer or home owner would be faced with the increased costs of pyramiding. Please allow the subcontractor deduction to remain.

The proposal for an increase in the General Excise Tax is also objectionable. If you remove the subcontractor deduction and you impose an increase in the General Excise Tax, it would be extremely difficult to maintain my business.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views with you.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:26 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: SWEETLEILANIFLORIST@HAWAII.RR.COM
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: SWEET LEILANI FLORIST
Organization: SWEET LEILANI FLORIST
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: SWEETLEILANIFLORIST@HAWAII.RR.COM Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

From: nfooster@thestrategist.tv
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:22 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to a GET Increase

Noe Foster
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1503
Honolulu, HI 96813-2860

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Small Business make up the spine of our fragile economy. To inflict an additional 1% G.E. Tax, would paralyze Hawaii Small Businesses.

The priorities should be to save and create new jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Warmest regards,

Noe Foster
(808) 753-7223

From: Charles Clarke [chuckclarke@chuckclarke.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:27 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: GET increase

The GET is regressive and an increase is a business and job killer. Please take it off the table.

Aloha,

Chuck Clarke

From: Chef Daniel [chefdaniel@danielthiebaut.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:32 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: No tax increase please

The GET is oppressively regressive, a business and job killer at its present rate. Raising it will make Hawaii's (non government) working people suffer more.

Aloha,

D Thiebaut

From: kathleenbustamante@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:37 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793: Please do not increase the GET

Kathleen Bustamante
497 Opihikao Pl
Honolulu, HI 96825-1128

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

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Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Kathleen Bustamante

From: Michael Lee [mwnlee@hawaiiintel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:41 PM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: Opposition to H.B. 793, S.D. 1

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2011

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee, Senators and Representatives:

I strongly oppose the proposed H.B. 793, S.D. 1, which suspends certain general excise tax exemptions, temporarily increases the general excise and use tax (GET), and provides for food and other tax credits.

I find it unconscionable that not enough effort has been expended to find ways to reduce government spending. When Governor Abercrombie came into office, the anticipated budget shortfall was about \$700 million. Instead of finding ways to reduce spending, he added to the State's budget. That alone is irresponsible. This is not a time to add new projects or ways of spending. The Legislature has abrogated its fiscal responsibility by similarly failing to scrutinize government waste and spending. I know, based on personal experience, that high government officials have acted and continue to act irresponsibly and as poor stewards of public financial resources. Those officials extend to the highest offices of the State and the Legislature, including the Committee on Ways and Means, has failed to call them to account.

The problem in the State of Hawaii is not a lack of taxation, but a lack of backbone in reducing spending. In my household, when my budget shows a shortfall, I do not have the option of taking money from my neighbor. I must prioritize spending and cut what is not essential until my income catches up. To tax the people when revenues fail to meet expectations is nothing short of theft. The people of Hawaii are already taxed too much. Your taxing the people more means that they have less to live on. Because you want to spend more, the people are impoverished.

Please give fair consideration to proposals to reduce State spending even if includes restructuring of State government and programs. When your personal income falls, you do not make plans for unnecessary projects or remodeling the kitchen and bath. Put off new projects for better economic times. We do not have a choice of the economic times and external circumstances we live under, but we can exercise discipline in our lives and what we choose to spend on.

All of the Governor's new spending should be shelved. All agencies should be consulted to the lowest levels for ways to reduce spending. Procedures should be streamlined to reduce the time and cost of processing. Cut administrative assistant positions. Most are unnecessary and overpaid.

I oppose passage of H.B. 793, S.D. 1.

Thank you,

Michael W. N. Lee

mwnlee@hawaiiantel.net

3763 Mariposa Drive

Honolulu, HI 96816

734-3053

LATE

From: Barbara Cooney [barleigh2@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:36 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: No to HB 793, SD1

To Whom it May Concern,

I am against HB 793, SD1 or any increase in GET.

My income is only \$39,000, and I'm the sole support for my 2 daughters. I have a rental property, and the rent collected is decreased because I must pay GET. Any increase would take away from our family's income.

Mahalo nui loa,
Barbara Cooney

From: Grainna Monteleone [grainna@aloha.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 12:13 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: OPPOSE - Measure-HB793

I deeply oppose HB793 which proposes to both suspend tax exemptions until 2015 and increase the GE tax by 1 percent until 2013.

There are better ways to balance the budget. We the tax payers need the tax exemptions and we pay enough tax already.

Don't drive taxpayers away from Hawaii.

- Measure-HB793
- Date-4/6/11
- Time-9:30am of the hearing

Thank you
Grainna Monteleone

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 1:57 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: kkamauu@hawaiianhomesfoundation.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: J Kahealani Kamauu
Organization: Hawaiian Homes Foundation
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: kkamauu@hawaiianhomesfoundation.com
Submitted on: 4/6/2011

Comments:

Aloha -

On behalf of over 30 business men and women that I work with WE strongly oppose the increase of the General Excise Tax. It is horrible that the legislature would even consider an increase. We have multiple businesses, I personally own 3 small businesses. We cannot afford to pay more in GE Tax. The increase in tax will yet again decrease the overall tax revenues as many more business close leaving the state with less tax revenues.

Real Estate market is one market where generally the professional pays their own GE Tax on top of having to pay income taxes as well. Real Estate markets also produce the largest asset sales.

We are slowly picking things back up - please do not disrupt the economy by increasing the taxes, allow our economy to become strong again.

Aloha,
Kahea

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 2:03 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: Janelmoana@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Janel Yamasaki
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: Janelmoana@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/6/2011

Comments:

From: Stan Zitnik [imuawp@hawaiiintel.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 5:53 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: SB 793 - Opposition

Aloha,

I am providing testimony in opposition to raising the GE Tax any amount as I consider the GE Tax a regressive tax that adversely impacts those that have the least ability to pay more for goods and services. A higher GE Tax also has a negative impact on business. Visitors already pay a huge taxes on rental cars, hotels and for air travel and one of the positive points about shopping in Hawaii is the low GE Tax. While in another State I was shocked at the price of a book at the checkout and I questioned why it was so much more than the price on the book, State sale tax. I support reducing the size of government, government programs, the number of State employees to a size that can be supported by the current tax revenue base.

Thank you,

Stan

Stan Zitnik
Wailuku, Maui
385-1405

From: Brian Yahata [tyc-brian@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 6:04 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB793

I have taken a 70% cut in pay from 2009. Our family has had to learn to prioritize and adjust our spending. You as our government leaders must learn to do the same – not take more money from the struggling people of Hawaii. I believe there are 2 choices reduce spending or increase revenue. Most people and businesses in Hawaii do not have the luxury of taking in more revenue and so they do best by reducing expenses.

I hope that you as our leaders have the wisdom to do the same and reduce the spending of government. We ask that you be reasonable and not go on hurting the people – taking our hard earned money.

Mahalo,
Brian Yahata
343-0060

From: irismuna57x@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 6:17 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793: Please do not increase the GET

Ursula Muna
423 Bougainvillea Loop
Honolulu, HI 96818-4167

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Ursula Muna

From: mary [mary@lavoie.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 6:30 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: GE Tax increase HB -793

I oppose the increase for obvious reasons. I think the elected officials and the Senate Ways and Means Committee have a financial responsibility to balance our budget and live within our means. Our state have a hefty collection of taxes and needs to come up with creative ideas to save money, make money, without just increasing out taxes. Spending money on rail we don't have, cutting education is another example of this states messed up priorities. Please do the right thing, Oppose a GE Tax Increase.....



Mary Lavoie, RA

Partner

Aloha Tower Marketplace
1 Aloha Tower Drive, #191
Honolulu, HI 96813
cell 808.222.0072
office 808.589.2040
fax 808.593.7367
Mary@elitepacific.com

From: hbhawaii@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 6:42 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to a GET Increase

Heidi Burgoyne
P.O. Box 706
Haleiwa, HI 96712-0706

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

According to Forbes magazine, Hawaii ranked #1 in 2010 as the most taxed state in the nation. If our state budget has a fiscal problem, it obviously does not stem from the amount of revenue it earns from tax.

As a business owner, we are now looking at ways to escape the money-sucking hands of the Hawaiian government and move our businesses elsewhere. Through the high tax and threats of higher taxes, Hawaiian government has made it clear that they are not interested in helping the people help themselves, rather, would want the people to rely on the government. Is it not telling that in this same bill the government is proposing to use some of the tax money to provide food?

I am amazed how many business owners I know who are reliant on the government for food and health care, including ourselves. Local business owners have the capability to be the saving grace for the state, as they are the ones who create jobs for others and, for small business owners, keep the money in Hawaii.

And yet it seems Hawaii's government wants to make poor the source that could make Hawaii rich.

I urge our government to view business owners as money providers for the state's people. I urge the government to look at ways at managing the money they have instead of increasing already high taxes on businesses.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Heidi Burgoyne

From: shelley@wilsonhomecare.net
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 6:47 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to a GET Increase

Shelley Wilson
1221 Kapiolani blvd. #940
Honolulu, HI 96814-3502

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

I humbly ask for your reconsideration to the proposed GET bill. As a business owner I am having a difficult time keeping my businesses going with the current tax burdens and costs of doing business. All of our businesses locally are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals. I understand the grave deficit we face. However, monies need to be collected elsewhere to lessen the loss of business locally any further than we have already experienced.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Shelley Wilson

(808) 864-3665

From: Edward Asato [eddie.asato@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 6:59 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: GE Tax

I can't believe that when Hawaii's residents are struggling to make ends meet, you are thinking of making life more economically difficult by raising the GE tax. Please re-consider and vote against this travesty. There are other ways of balancing the budget - what our households have to do - cut the fat out of our spending.

Eddie Asato
Maui, Hawaii

--

Living for God & His Word with Passion & Joy,

Pastor Eddie Asato

LATE

From: Randall Daly [randall.daly@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 7:38 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: SB793

Dear Committe Members:

I'm adamantly opposed to HB793 which proposes to both suspend tax exemptions until 2015 and increase the GE tax by 1 percent until 2013.

We are being taxed to death and I urge you to do all you can to oppose HB793!

Your constituents are counting on you to find ways to reduce wasteful spending and cut costs - NOT INCREASE OUR TAX BURDEN! We will hold you accountable at the polls when you run for re-election.

Kind regards,

Randall Daly

From: kathy kane [hawnmama2000@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 7:39 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to HB 793

I am sending this email to say that I am strongly against HB 793 which would raise the GE tax by 1% and suspend the tax exemptions until 2015. The people have been taxed enough. No MORE taxes, cut the budget, cut the payroll, cut it all back to bare bones and live with what the citizenry has to live on, whatever they earn!

Aloha, Kathryn Kane

What: House Bill 793, the GE tax hike increase measure

When: Hearing is Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

Where: State Capitol Auditorium

Who: Senate Ways and Means Committee (click on the link to see who is on the committee)

Call to Action: All you need to say is that you oppose HB793 which proposes to both suspend tax exemptions until 2015 and increase the GE tax by 1 percent until 2013.

How: There are multiple ways you can testify

- Email the Senate Ways and Means Committee @ WAMTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov (Please indicate the measure-HB793, date-4/6/11 and time-9:30am of the hearing.)
- Use the [link](#) to send your testimony on HB793 via the internet.
- Take a moment to attend tomorrow's hearing and testify. The meeting will be held @ 9:30am in the State Capitol Auditorium tomorrow, Wednesday April, 6.

From: McGeehan-Takiue, Theresa [Theresa.McGeehan-Takiue@doh.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 7:50 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Raise the GE Tax

My husband and I are state govt. workers. The last 3 years we have given up 10% of our wages to balance the state budget. It has been very difficult to support our family (including our adult child with the high unemployment, grandchild & elderly parent), and many of us have gone further into debt.. Can you imagine loosing 10% of your wages, times 2 members in the same household, for 2 years? Please do not attempt to balance the state budget on the backs of government workers, or by cutting benefits, services and additional layoffs. It has been very difficult for families of state govt. workers to maintain a little dignity during these difficult times.

Mahalo

From: Cecile Koreyasu [cecileak@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 7:59 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: No to HB 793

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

However, as a voting resident of that State of Hawaii, I am against HB 793 which raises the General Excise Tax to 25%.

The people of Hawaii are already suffering financially and this would be a outrageous financial burden on us. The impact will be severe. There will be more bankruptcies, foreclosures, homelessness, families with no medical/dental, family stresses (depression, abuse, poor mental/physical health, etc.), lack-key children because parents are working 2 jobs, elderly going without basic needs, limited income seniors will no longer be able to stay independent, etc., etc., etc. As governmental leaders of our community we, the people, have put you into office to do be responsible in finding a good solutions to our government challenges. Surely as a group you can find more creative ways of addressing this problem.

I thank you for the work you are doing to serve our State and I also want to thank you in advance for a better solution to the State's financial woes without hurting the people.

Aloha,
Cecile Koreyasu

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:02 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: luislarcina@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: luis larcina
Organization:
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: luislarcina@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/6/2011

Comments:
Stop any tax increase. live within your means...like the rest of us.

LATE

From: Tiffani Napu'unoa [trpadgett@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:06 AM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: HB 793

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Tiffani Napuunoa. I am resident of Makiki and I urge you to vote no on HB 793. There is not reason to raise the GE Tax because the budget can be balanced without taking more money from the hardworking taxpayers of Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Tiffani Napu'unoa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:11 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: ayoshimori.gyamaui@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alvin M. Yoshimori
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ayoshimori.gyamaui@gmail.com
Submitted on: 4/6/2011

Comments:

Legislator:

Please help small business, keep us afloat to overcome the economy.

LATE

From: msteiner@steinerassoc.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:12 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793: Please do not increase the GET

Michael Steiner
702 Kanaha Street
Kailua, HI 96734-1942

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Customers are making tough decisions as well in their spending needs and requirements.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Even with the related exemptions, raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Michael Steiner
808-221-5955

LATE

From: Rhonda McGuire [alohadenverbroncos@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:16 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: excise tax

I realize this may be too late, but we just received word of this vote here in Hawaii and I am asking that it be voted against as it has been proven the budget can be balanced without increasing the excise tax. Cost of living here in Hawaii is already extremely high, the increased tax will make it just that much harder to make ends meet.

Rhonda McGuire

LATE

From: pastor.jr50@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:17 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Get tax

Please vote no on any increase on any tax especially get
James Reid

Sent from myTouch 4G

From: allowlove@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:17 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: A GET Increase will Hurt Small Businesses: Oppose HB 793

Ronald Russell
5245A Kaehulua Rd.
Kapa'a, HI 96746-8200

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Ronald Russell
821-9606

LATE

From: tmevans@westaff.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:18 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793: Please do not increase the GET

Tricia Evans
900 Fort Street Mall Suite 965
Honolulu, HI 96813-3717

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

I have already lost business due to the slow economic recovery in our state. It is a daily struggle to market for new clients and grow my business income. I already have cut my business operating expenses as much as possible and my own salary in order to not to cut my employees wages and benefits.

Hawaii State Government needs to take a hard look and reducing government spending and not double taxing business owners and the public. We cannot afford it.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Tricia Evans
808.524.0411

LATE

From: DNii931103@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:23 AM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: No Increase in GET

It's been proven that the budget can be balanced without increasing the GET. Taking more money from hard working people here in Hawaii to compensate for irresponsible overspending and inability to budget properly is not right!

Please do not increase GET.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:25 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: Brian@SandyParadise.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brian Ward
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: Brian@SandyParadise.com
Submitted on: 4/6/2011

Comments:

I oppose HB793 which proposes to both suspend tax exemptions until 2015 and increase the GE tax by 1 percent until 2013!

LATE

From: Kim [ksoto@fcshawaii.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:22 AM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: HB 793

This bill (HB 793) is not acceptable. A 25% increase is too much. The government needs to look internally to find monies not from the already over taxed tax payers. PLEASE reconsider and vote NO to HB 793.

Sincerely,

Kimberly A. Soto

From: Craig H. Calizo [chcalizo@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:26 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793-increase in general exise tax

I am a resident of Ewa Beach and I would like to state my opposition for a raise in the G.E.T. As a father I have found it increasingly difficult to pay for the necessities of life. Increasing my tax burden is not going to fix my situation. I would appreciate you holding off on any increase in the G.E.T. Thank you for your allowing me to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,

Craig H. Calizo

From: Greg Ruhland MD [greg@hiipm.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:30 AM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: HB 793

Aloha Governor Abercrombie and State of Hawaii elected legislators,

I am a 59 year old physician who has worked in Hilo for the past 25 years. I have been an employee of California county and state government and a federal government employee as a Peace Corps volunteer. After moving to Hilo I worked daily in the state hospital in Hilo for 16 years as a private physician and my wife continues to work at Hilo Medical Center as a department director, a state of Hawaii employee and HGEA member. I have significant appreciation for government employment systems at multiple levels of government. My current medical practice is a small business with 10 employees. Over the past several years my staff and I have had to significantly improve our efficiency as reimbursements for medical services declined. With participation of all members of my staff, we have been able to improve the efficiency of our business by improving all aspects of the business. For the state of Hawaii elected officials to even suggest an increase in taxes at this time is absurd. It is time for the leaders of the state of Hawaii, starting with Governor Abercrombie and our elected legislators to set the tone for all government employees and institute improvements in fiscal management and increase production without cutting services and especially without increasing taxes. My staff and I have not decreased services despite decreases in income and have improved performance. Leadership starts from the top, Governor Abercrombie and our elected legislators please start leading and show our state employees that they are capable of much more and at times like this, they need to step up!!!

Greg Ruhland MD
Hilo, Hawaii

From: jamie.asato@accuityllp.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:37 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Help Small Businesses by Opposing a GET Incease

Jamie Asato
999 Bishop Street, Suite 1900
Honolulu, HI 96813-4427

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Jamie Asato

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:38 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: gilia.rethman@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Gilia Rethman
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: gilia.rethman@gmail.com
Submitted on: 4/6/2011

Comments:

I was hoping to testify in person this morning but have a work-related conference call. Yes, I work hard so I can pay my taxes. Frankly, I can live anywhere with the job I have but I chose Hawaii for it's beauty and wonderful people. Please note that I will leave Hawaii if the exemptions to the GET are changed. Keep in mind that the exemptions were put in place not that long ago so businesses would stay here....this bill will make it very difficult for people like me to stay. The ever dwindling population of productive, independent businesses in Hawaii will turn it into Detroit in the not-too-distant future. There are other nice place to live that don't have onerous taxes.

From: JULIE OBRERO [julieobrero@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:50 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793 testimony

Please vote against HB 793.

Sincerely,

Julie Obrero

=

From: lsshawaii@mac.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:52 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793: DO NOT increase the GET

Louis Shiraishi
94-286 Waipahu St.
Waipau, HI 96797-1452

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

As a small business owner we are holding on by the skin of our teeth. We've cut employees, wage and salary rates, stopped contributions to charities, work longer hours because of the cut to employees, eliminated or reduced employee benefits, sold cars and trucks, and much more that would help us reduce expenses and survive. We are trying to develop other avenues of income and asking our employees to work harder and more efficiently. I am of retirement age but continue to struggle because I feel a responsibility to my employees who have be loyal for so long. Many have been with me for over 25 years. Lately all we hear is that government is having a hard time and we need more money. (GET increase) Will you give us a break? I really don't know how much more of this we can take. Help us survive by reducing the size of government not increasing our tax burden.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Louis Shiraishi
808 497-0527

From: haydg@saic.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:57 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to a GET Increase

Dan Hay
3375 Koapaka Street, Suite B-250
Honolulu, HI 96819-1867

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

Businesses are already struggling to stay afloat during this tough economic climate and trying their best in continuing to provide benefits to their employees and avoiding job cuts. Merely keeping up with operating expenses is difficult. Therefore, a tax increase will become an additional cost imposed on companies that they cannot afford to undertake at this time.

The priorities should be to save and create jobs and to revitalize the economy. Raising the GET is counter-productive to these goals.

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Dan Hay

LATE

From: Merle Crow [crowm001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:02 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: GET increase

Reduce expenditures, do not increase GET tax. Eliminate the excessive holidays vacation and sick days given government employees over the average in the public sector -- savings would be huge

merle crow

From: Kristy Calizo [kct4862@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:09 AM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: Oppose raise of GET Tax

I oppose the raising on the general excise tax. It is bad enough that gas prices are skyrocketing the way that it is. With the economy the way it is and many families not having employment, if you were to raise the taxes, you will be putting more people on the streets. Hawaii is already having an issue with the homeless. And with the budget cuts, there is not enough programs to assist everyone out there. Raising the taxes will hurt the people of Hawaii and not help the budget problems.

From: Miki Akiona [mikia@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:16 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 973

I am voicing my disapproval of raising the GET. Raising our taxes is NOT the answer and solution to our government financial woes. It is hard enough paying what I must now.

Now, being unemployed, after 30 years of employment is a frightful situation. How can you consider raising the taxes and fees as a solution? There are consequences that follow. I could one day be one of those homeless people looking for a place to peg my tent. Thinking the solution to all, is to raise this tax, will be the demise of many families and businesses.

I AM AGAINST HB 793.

With great concern,

Michelle Akiona
P.O. Box 174
Ka'a'awa, HI 96730
mikia@hawaiiantel.net

From: Rob [misrr@flex.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:16 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793

I oppose bill HB 793

Rob Rietow
misrr@flex.com
808-542-9591

Want Fair Taxes? Check out www.fairtax.org. Pay taxes on only what you buy!
See what it is about at http://afft.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=about_basics_thumbnail



From: tinkero01@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:17 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793: Please do not increase the GET

Leslie Blomfield
59-473 Hoalike Rd.
Haleiwa, HI 96712-9524

April 6, 2011

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Testimony to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means Wednesday, April 6, 2011 9:30 a.m.
Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 793 (Proposed SD1) relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to the 1% temporary increase in the General Excise Tax.

I am the sole proprietor of a very small wedding business which is already struggling to survive in the current economic situation. I incur many business expenses in order to operate my company, including extra liability insurance, special auto insurance, State Permits, etc. Please, don't make it any more difficult than it already is for small business owners to exist!

I urge you to not pass HB 793 with language that increases the GET. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

cc: My Senator and Representative

Sincerely,

Leslie Blomfield
(808) 638-8941

From: BJ [rjcubed@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:23 AM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: G.E.T.

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I am writing you to oppose Bill HB 793 and any other attempt to raise the general excise tax. During this difficult economic time, it is hard enough for families to make ends meet and we do not need this additional tax burden.

I respectfully request that instead on increasing taxes, you look at ways for government to tighten its belt. I have made sacrifices to my family's budget during the past few years and I hope that government would do the same. We are forcing more and more Local families to leave the State just because of the Tax burden. I watch the evening News and see 13 people displaced because of just one house fire! It's really a poor reflection on Hawaii that this many people need to live in a 3 or 4 bedroom home! We really need to stop or at least postpone Rail. We simply can not afford it in this economy. It's not even built yet and our State Government can not make ends meet.

We need to stop looking at the Budget as if there is a Budget shortfall and Reduce the Budget so it fits the current revenue! Government can't solve everything, thats the Private Sectors job. Every Humanitarian cause is a good one, but where do we draw the line, ever?! The time is now! National Republicans are trying to get the Federal Government back on track, can't our Local leaders do the same or just do the easy thing, raise Taxes. Please be responsible with our Future!

Sincerely,

Robert H. Jones

From: Llacuna, Tera [Tera.Llacuna@acs-inc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:24 AM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: Opposition to HB 793

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to HB 793. As a tax paying citizen, I find it alarming that in such an unstable time our government wants to raise our taxes.

Rather it be on the radio or on television, I hear about our state's multi-billion dollar deficit on a daily basis. Raising the general excise tax is not the way to balance our state's budget.

It is a matter of basic economics: a government can only be as big as its economy can sustain. The solution that no one seems to want to acknowledge is downsizing our government. When we dove deep into the recession many companies in the private sector downsized to weather the storm. Why no apply the same rule or technique at the government level (both city and state)?

I ask you to please throw politics out the window and do what your constituents elected you to do, look out for our best interest. Please do not raise our taxes, surely there are other ways of balancing our state's budget aside from placing the burden on the people's shoulders.

Sincerely,
Tera L. Llacuna

Tera L. Llacuna
Banking Associate
Government Healthcare Solutions
ACS, A Xerox Company
1440 Kapiolani Blvd. Suite 1400
Honolulu, HI 96814

p 808.952.5550
f 808.952.5554

Tera.Llacuna@acs-inc.com

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From: howardl@nikingcorp.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:27 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Do Not Raise the GE Tax

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

House Republicans introduced a balanced budget earlier this week that does not raise the General Excise Tax.

Now, Senate Democrats are taking the position that raising the General Excise Tax on everything you buy in Hawaii is the answer.

This is crazy. Please act responsibly and work to provide us with a balanced budget with no increase in the GE tax.

Howard Leung
Mililani

From: Darlene Iokepa [kawaiihoolana@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:23 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: GE Tax Increase

I do not support this action! The people of Hawaii are suffering enough because of the incompetent actions of "that fellow" in the White House! Give us lower tax rates so we can spend more to feed our families and state coffers will be inundated with funds! Tax us more and we'll spend less! This has been proven, time and time again!

From: John Erickson [hppjohn@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:35 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: spending

Dear People; Raising taxes are not the best way to relieve our financial crisis. You have to quit promising the moon and obligating us for something that is not essential for society. Government is not the solution, Too much government is the problem. Raising taxes just reinforces the notion that gov. is innocent of this financial crisis.....

LATE

From: Baruch Hashem [mashiach_is_coming@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:33 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: All Senators; All Reps
Subject: NO ON HB 793 No more taxes please. Investigate 2010 Hawaii Pork Report

To whom it may concern:

Please do not take any more taxes from the Hawaiian people. Please do a thorough **investigation** on the Pork Report and stop the illegal and immoral spending at tax payer's expense.

Sincerely,
Karen

Pork Report:
<http://www.grassrootinstitute.org/system/attachments/43/2010HawaiiPorkReport.pdf>

From: Garner [gs-msm@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 10:00 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793

TO: Senate Ways and Means Committee

RE: HB 793

Hearing: Wednesday, April 6th at 9:30am, in the ground floor Auditorium at the State Capitol

To our Honorable Elected Officials,

As a business person and individual concerned about the future economic health of our great State, both now and in the future, I strongly oppose HB 793 which would increase the General Excise Tax by 25%. For any budget on any level, you cannot spend more than you have. We need to get back to basics. This session has been very one-sided in its approach to raise more revenue, without looking at the critical need to reducing our costs, especially fixed labor costs. It does not make any sense to increase our budget spending; we should instead be holding costs the same at the very least.

Can we please consider the Republican budget proposal that does not raise taxes? The public needs to hear about these alternative options and be informed by our Legislative body on what is happening. Business health and growth is the basis of our free enterprise economy. Government control and spending is creating a socialist nation that is killing business. Without significant correction, more and more of our people, especially our young people, our future, will leave our State to live in a place that can provide hope for affordable housing and a bright career opportunity.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention, and important work that you do.

Aloha,

*Garner Shimizu
Master Sheet Metal, Inc.
1648 Auiki St./ Honolulu HI 96819
Tel: (808) 847-2128*

Fax: (808) 847-0297
Cell: (808) 479-0130
email: gs-msm@hawaii.rr.com



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From: Lisa Gapero [vote4gapero@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 10:03 AM
To: WAM Testimony; All Reps
Subject: HB 793 SD1

I do not support this bill. No more taxes for citizens of Hawaii. The mismanagement of money is what you are confronted with not how to get more blood from the taxpayer.
How about a 2% across the board on everything? Your salary, all funding to programs ---EVERYTHING!!!!

--

Lisa Gapero
21 One Malia Way
Wailuku, HI 96793
808 760 8336
808 276 7945
www.lisagapero.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 10:04 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: LisBob@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lis Richardson
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: LisBob@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 4/6/2011

Comments:

I oppose the GET Tax increase..My husband and I own and rent two small vacation rental condos in South Maui resorts. Our prospective guests are shocked that we are required by law to charge them 13.25% GET/TAT for the state in addition to rent. To raise the GET now, thereby charging the tourist industry closer to 15% in tax will hugely affect the hotel/accommodation industry. In this economy especially, we are unable to rent our units at rates that make economic sense... we have had to scale back and charge less, which means less funds to keep up with necessary upgrades and maintenance. As accommodations trend toward outdated and poorer quality, disappointed vacationers will look elsewhere for their holiday experience. People often look at the bottom line for their expenditures, and as the state asks us to raise the tax we by necessity must lower our rent to continue to attract guests. It is a vicious cycle that will put a lot of small tourist industry contributors out of business. Thank you.

LATE

From: Howard West [HWest@esciencei.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 10:15 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony on HB793, Proposed SD1 Relating to Taxation

April 6, 2011

Subject: Testimony on HB793, Proposed SD1 Relating to Taxation.

Dear Senator Ige and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am opposed to HB793, Proposed SD1, which seeks to suspend subcontractor deductions. The subcontractor deduction is not an exemption. General or prime contractors can deduct the taxes already paid by their subcontractors and sub-subcontractors from their General Excise Tax Liability. This provision is in the tax code to prevent pyramiding, which is unfair, particularly for general contractors who pay taxes on taxes. In the case of home building, the home owners would be faced with the increased costs of pyramiding. This is made even more troubling in the current depressed housing market. Please continue to allow the subcontractor deduction.

The proposal for an increase in the General Excise Tax also is objectionable. If you remove the subcontractor deduction and increase in the General Excise Tax, it would affect our business adversely.

I appreciate you taking the time to review my testimony.

Mahalo,

Howard West
Vice President
Environmental Science International, Inc.

From: William George [wgeorge@mountainmeadowranch.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 10:14 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: House Bill 793- OPPOSED

The subject bill should not receive consideration until the expense side of the equation is properly addressed. The taxpayers cannot continue to fund the largess afforded by the state to government union employees.

Hawaii's union contracts must be renegotiated to more accurately reflect similar contracts in the private sector. We can no longer afford to have two classes of workers in Hawaii: On the one hand we have the privileged government worker with vacation pay, work rules, holiday pay, wages, and pensions far in excess of those afforded in the private sector. On the other we have private sector workers, unionized and not, suffering the ravages of the economic downturn. Layoffs, pay cuts, loss of health care and pension contributions are the norm.

This bill would force those in the distressed private sector to pony up to keep the imbalance.

That is just wrong.

Respectfully,

William George
Honokaa, HI
960-1335

LATE

From: camachor002@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 10:47 AM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: HB 793

PLEASE don't raise the general excise tax.

I am married with three beautiful children. To avoid being white noise, I'll just say that everyone in Hawaii is struggling. We all feel it. So on a personal note, why would you make my life even more difficult by charging me more to feed my children, provide clothing, and all the other necessities of life? I guess I'm middle class and very blessed to have a full-time job. But it is very clear to me that, you have to be in poverty to receive financial assistance or be well-off to live in Hawaii. I love Hawaii so much. I was born and raised here, and want my children to grow up in this wonderful place, too. However, anymore increase in taxes and we'll be looking for a place to live in the mainland. I don't want to move away.

PLEASE don't raise the general excise tax.

Thank you,
Robyn Camacho
91-6501 Kapolei Pkwy
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
808.737.7946

From: Nancy Jacobson [njacobson7@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 11:09 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Excess Tax

I can not make the meeting, but I wanted to let you know that I do not support the Excess Tax increase. Taxes are high enough as it is. The medical care is taxed, the food we eat and entertainment. What is next, THE AIR WE Breath?

Nancy Jacobson
Ewa Beach

From: Tilley [ctilley@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 11:23 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: No net taxes

Do not vote to raise the general excise tax or tax private pensions.

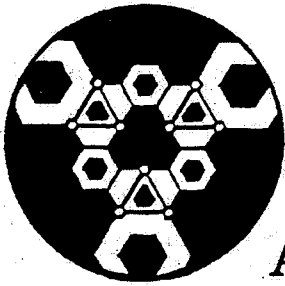
Chuck Tilley; who votes in every election

LATE

From: mustangshelby7@earthlink.net
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 11:46 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Taxes

**STOP RAISING OUR TAXES!! WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU????.....
I KNOW I WILL BE VOTING REPUBLICAN NEXT ELECTION. THANKS FOR THE
ENLIGHTENMENT.....Shelby Pawasarat**

EarthLink Revolves Around You.



LATE

ANDREW CHARLES YANOVIAK AIA, APA, CSI
ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS PLANNING AND DESIGN CONSULTATION

5 April 2011

Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair, Ways and Means Committee
(WAM) Hawaii State Senate; and, Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani,
Vice Chair WAM; and, Honorable WAM Members:

Hawaii State Capitol Offices; Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 793 SD1 Relating to "Taxation:
Section 3"; Amending H.R.S. Chapter 237-13 (3) (B) (i) – Re: Removal
of a Particular GET Exemption for "Work Performed by Contractors"
in State Capitol Auditorium Hearing on 6 April 2011 at 9:30 AM:

Dear Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and Honorable Senatorial
Members of the Hawaii State Legislature WAM Committee:

As a Corporate Member of The American Institute of Architects
since 1966, I have been requested by AIA Honolulu and AIA Hawaii
Council to Provide Written Testimony on the Referenced HB 793
SD1. I do so on behalf of Hawaii nei, in STRONG OPPOSITION to
Possible Negation of this Particular Existing Exemption; because, Its
Implementation will definitely (with Full Due Consideration of the In-
built GET "Pyramid Affect") Adversely Impact MANY Homeowners,
Taxpayers, Real Estate Developers, Hawaii Construction Firms, and
not only our fellow AIA Members, but also their Retained Engineering
Consultants and ALL CONSUMERS in Hawaii nei – for a Currently
Designated Proposed Period of over 3 or 4 Years!

Thank you for this Opportunity to Testify on Behalf of Hawaii nei.

Sincerely,

CENTURY SQUARE/SUITE 3011:1188 BISHOP STREET:HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

CABLE ADDRESS: YANOPLAN/ (808) 545-7592 / (808) 533-4158

CHARTER MEMBER: BUCKMINSTER FULLER FOUNDATION
WOBO: WORLD ORGANIZATION OF BUILDING OFFICIALS

LATE

From: Steve Clark [szc@hawaiiintel.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 12:22 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: General Excise Tax

I manage a small company with 17 sub-contractors on Maui and the Big Island. We are being hit by higher costs for everything right now and the economy is still VERY BAD.

THE WORST THING YOU COULD DO IS RAISE TAXES RIGHT NOW!! Please hear our plea! Don't do it!!

Mahalo,
Stephen Clark
Pacific Circulation, Inc
961-0354

LATE

From: Melanie Gurath [melgurath@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 12:10 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB793 Bill

Vote against this terrible bill .

Melanie Gurath
Sent from my iPhone

From: Rick Spielman [spielmanf001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 12:42 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: General Excise Tax

I do not believe that raising the General Excise Tax is required to balance the budget. If the House Republicans can produce a budget that does not raise the General Excise Tax, then why raise it?

Frederick M. Spielman
Ewa Beach, HI

I am here today to speak in strong opposition to HB793, SD1.
My name is Bobbie Slater and I am here in opposition to HB 793m SD1.

I have a small, handmade merchandise business. The people who work with me have other jobs and are happy to have the supplemental work that my business can give them.

I have watched my customers struggle with laying off people, which if you have never had to lay someone off, it is a dreadful thing to do.

Their other works took a 10% pay cut, and they have received no bonuses for two and a half years. The company was not able to make the matching contributions to their 401k, and they reduced their contribution to their esop plan.

This has been going on since 2009. Only recently have they been able to give back 5% of the pay cut. And they have hired back a few people.

Now you talk about increasing the excise tax, which will result in either more layoffs, or a greater reduction in pay.

Because of the pyramid nature of the excise tax, most people don't understand that the 4% excise, which outer islands enjoy, is equal to an 11% at the register sales tax. A 5% excise tax is equal to a 13% to 14% at the register sales tax. For Oahu residents, which currently have the pleasure of pay an additional 1 1/2%, the new 5 1/2% will be equal to a 16% or 17% sales tax.

How can a tax structure like this not result in more chaos for the private sector?

It is important to remember that only the business community makes money for the government to spend. When you continually hurt the business people, please remember that those are important jobs that you are taking away.

People will have to pay more for everything—and they will be paid less.

Unfortunately, the party that is supposed to be the party of the people, is

Please reconsider an increase in this deceitful, regressive excise tax increase. No good will come of it.

April 4, 2011

To the State Senate Ways and Means Committee

Re: HB 793 testimony

The State Senate needs to cut government spending. Govt. unions need to take a 10% pay cut across the Board. The State legislature has not passed one bill to cut government spending in 2011.

If the Legislature really wants to show they care to the people of Hawaii they need to cut legislative pay (because of the 38% pay raise it received 2 years ago) to \$1.00 per year for the next 2 years as well as all benefits. Those cuts alone will save over \$200 million.

The Japan Tsunami and earthquake will have a severe impact in Hawaii and cause a dramatic loss in business to the State of Hawaii for at least the next 1 to 2 years. Anyone who does not believe that is not being realistic.

The Legislature has never shown empathy for business and all it does is tax and spend. Now is the time to cut government spending.

Sincerely,

Steven Sofos

A concerned citizen and tax payer.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:03 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: josephpollarddo@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Joseph Pollard
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: josephpollarddo@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/6/2011

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:53 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: taylorr001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Taylor
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: taylorr001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 4/6/2011

Comments:

I oppose HB793. I am a registered voter. I am 65 years old. I have worked since I was 10yrs old. I worked, saved and sacrificed to make a good life for my wife of 41years, two sons and three grand kids. With the passage of this bill, I will now be punished by yet another tax increase and have to pay because the senate can legally just pass a law. It is simply not fair. Hawaii needs to get it's financial house back in order by cutting spending, not by increasing fees and taxes.

From: valthephonegal@gmail.com on behalf of val [808val@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:57 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB 793

Aloha all. I am writing in opposition of HB793, proposing to raise the GE tax by 25%. I am a small businesswoman and have lived and worked here in Hawaii for 16 years or so. In this past 2 years I have lost over HALF of my small business customers. I install wiring for business phones and computer systems and sell and install same. It is just about impossible for the small business person to be able to succeed with the high rents for commercial space, the high cost of doing business, the high cost of living and the overtaxation by all branches of government. Hawaii is the least business-friendly state in the Union. I have provided service to the same customers for years and years and now I see an amazing number at them at the bankruptcy lawyers, homeless shelters and food banks (also customers of mine). It is heartbreaking. And now you propose raising taxes on us any and every way you can. It is only going to damage this weak, crippled economy even worse. Please consider cutting government spending by eliminating some paid holidays and trimming benefits and whatever can be done to pare down the bloated beauracracy in this state. I am a hard-working, tax-paying resident of the state of Hawaii and am 100 percent against the passage of this bill in ANY form.

*Thank You,
Valerie Sisneros*

LATE

From: ORCHIDLADY [orchidlady1@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2011 1:53 AM
To: All Reps; All Senators; WAM Testimony
Subject: RE: DO NOT RAISE OUR TAXES

Subject: DO NOT RAISE OUR TAXES TO FUND THE UNIONS

SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII,

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE IN A MAJOR FISCAL CRISIS AND YOUR SOLUTION TO RAISE TAXES IS UNREALISTIC? I RECALL DURING THE ELECTION OF 2010, OUR GOVERNOR PROMISED TO "NOT RAISE TAXES." PLEASE DO NOT FOLLOW WASHINGTON DC's THEORY TO "TAX AND SPEND", OR YOU WILL BE FOLLOWING CALIFORNIA IN ITS FOOT STEPS OF ECONOMIC UNSUSTAINABILITY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IT IS ALREADY WELL KNOWN THAT HAWAII IS ONE OF THE WORST STATES TO START A BUSINESS DUE TO HIGH TAXES AND MANY GOVERNMENTAL RULES AND REGULATIONS.

AT THIS TIME MY SUGGESTION WOULD BE THAT YOU CUT OUR STATE BUDGET, KEEP THE FURLOUGHS AND STOP WASTING OUR HARD EARNED DOLLARS A LOT OF WHICH FALLS INTO UNION HANDS AND THUS INTO POLITICAL DONATIONS TO THE POLITICAL LEFT.

PLEASE DO WHAT YOU WERE ELECTED TO DO, SERVE THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII AND STOP WASTE SPENDING OF DOLLARS WE DO NOT HAVE .

Sincerely,

Pauline Brault
Keaau, Hi 96749

LATE

From: Bruce Moore [forgiveniam@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2011 7:11 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Oppose HB793

I oppose HB793 and any attempt to raise tax rates in the State of Hawaii.

Cut spending across the board instead!!!!!!!!!!

LATE

From: Carolyn Pace [carolyn@CarolynPaceDesign.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:27 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: HB793, Proposed SD1

To The state legislature,

I am writing after hearing about the State Legislature is considering passing a bill that will have a profound negative impact on our industry by pyramiding the GE Tax on all construction projects.

I have been in the design business for several years, my business has experience more then 30% decreases in the last two years. I see many contractors closing their shops and many of my colleagues in design having to move from commercial spaces to home base offices or lesser leases. I am concern for our industry as a whole and don't think we can survive a heavy tax burden on top of the economic state this country is in.

This additional GE tax on contractors will only increase construction cost when in these days people are counting every penny.

Regards,

Carolyn Pace

Carolyn Pace Design
Gentry Pacific Design Center
560 N. Nimitz Hwy, Ste 201C-2
Honolulu, HI 96817

808 545-5460 ph
808 545-5463 fax

From: Carl Young [youngc035@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 7:48 PM
To: All Senators; WAM Testimony; All Reps

Dear Representatives,

Before raising the GET I respectfully request that closer attention be given to the current DOE budget. In February 2009 there was an audit of the procurement process, which is posted on the DOE web page:

<http://hawaii.gov/auditor/Reports/2009/09-04.pdf>

\$20 million was misappropriated from one \$160 million project from a \$830 million budget. A simple extrapolation would suggest that over \$100 million may have been misappropriated. An outside contractor was allowed to conduct the bidding process while being allowed to bid on the projects. The evidence is very clear and it is public knowledge. Why aren't our law makers holding the people that had stewardship over this money being held accountable? Has this waste been addressed?

All the people I know in the DOE system are well aware of individuals that have clerical positions obtained through connections and they DO NOT WORK! Some people speculate that it's political corruption. Well, here's your chance to prove that the labor unions and campaign donors (ie. Mitsunaga & Associates) are not being paid off and politicians are no longer going to be giving jobs to their friends and relatives. We can no longer afford to pay for the pensions and salaries of non-essential non-producing employees.

Hard working individuals know that these abuses are taking place and it only serves as a disincentive to working hard and creating jobs for others. It will just be a matter of time when government will be increasing property taxes and we will become like California where people are paying \$10,000 to \$12,000 a year to own a house. In effect, the government will own the land and average folks will become serfs. The economy can no longer bear the weight of policies that serve the short term interests of the few and harms the general public which you have an oath to serve. We need solutions that allow everyone to win. As a state we are all in the same boat. A win-lose philosophy will ultimately result in everyone sinking, which is where we are now. We need to deal with the abuses of the past now or producers will begin leaving the state. We and our families need you to have courage to stand for the convictions I know you believe in deep down in your souls.

Mahalo,
A Hard Working 4th Generation Local

From: Frank Schultz [schlitzsky@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 7:28 PM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: Proposed Increase to the General Excise Tax by 25%.

House Republicans introduced a balanced budget earlier this week that does not raise the General Excise Tax.

Senate Democrats are taking the position that raising the General Excise Tax on everything we buy in Hawaii is the answer.

Taking more money out of the pockets of our hard working families is wrong.

I believe you should reach deep into your pockets and take a permanent 25% pay cut and suffer as your constituents do to help balance a budget that you have let run rampant.

House Republicans have proven that the budget can be balanced without this GE Tax increase – it's time that we put this idea to rest.

I am most ardently opposed to this raise.

Frank Schultz

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 6:46 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: wanderingstar@mail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2011 9:30:00 AM HB793

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bill Star
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: wanderingstar@mail.com
Submitted on: 4/6/2011

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 793

The economy is down. Costs for everything are rising rapidly. The Japanese tsunami is expected to damage our economy further, and all our elected representatives can offer is an increase in the budget and an increase in taxes.

We all know your purported solutions will make things worse. The question is how much worse.

I noticed a number of form letters supporting the tax increase. It's interesting to note that several of those letters were sent from state and local government office fax machines during normal business hours. It's bad enough to have to pay some of the highest taxes in the nation, but having to pay state workers while they lobby to increase them even further is particularly irritating.

We can no longer let public employee unions further damage our economy.

It's time to cut spending and focus on saving our economy not our public unions.

LATE

From: Jeannie Pheasant [jipheasant@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 5:30 PM
To: WAM Testimony; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: HB 793

To Whom It May Concern:

I am against HB 793. I work so hard and barely make ends meet. I have lived in Hawaii for almost 30 years and would like to continue to make Hawaii my home as long as I can afford to. Taking more money out of the pockets of our hard working families is wrong. We have proven that the budget can be balanced without this GE Tax increase - it's time that we put this idea to rest.

Thank you.

With warmest aloha,

Jeannie Pheasant
346-7065

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2011 9:08 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: sgarcia@environetinc.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/7/2011 9:50:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/7/2011 9:50:00 AM HB793

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sonia Garcia
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: sgarcia@environetinc.com
Submitted on: 4/7/2011

Comments:

HB 793 will cripple Hawaii's small businesses. I know that this morning's Ways & Means Committee hearing will be a difficult one, as our elected officials grapple with finding ways to counter our State's budget woes, but I would like to urge the committee to reject HB 793. The double tax on subcontractors would be devastating to the operation of small businesses. The small business that I work for has made a commitment to hire local personnel and local subcontractors whenever possible, and in such a way we promote the local economy and we help keep money in the State. Please help us stay in business by preventing this double tax from becoming a reality. It is a small business killer. Thank you for your consideration.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2011 10:08 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: pkubota@environetinc.com
Subject: Testimony for HB793 on 4/7/2011 9:50:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/7/2011 9:50:00 AM HB793

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Patrick Kubota
Organization:
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: pkubota@environetinc.com
Submitted on: 4/7/2011

Comments:

No suspension of GET exemptions and no increase in GET rate!!!!!!!