



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

**LATE TESTIMONY**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR**  
**Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**  
**Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair**

**February 11, 2011**  
**9:15 a.m. Room 016**

**Governor Neil Abercrombie**  
**Testimony in SUPPORT on SB 1268**  
**Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Benefits Trust Fund**

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee:

Thank you this opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill (SB) 1268, Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Benefits Trust Fund.

We are facing an \$844 million deficit over the next two years. Right now, state taxpayers are paying for reimbursements for Medicare Part B coverage for roughly 30,000 retirees and their spouses.

It is clear that for some retirees, particularly older retirees and those who have very low income, that this reimbursement is helpful. My administration is open to the idea of providing an exemption or some other form of relief to these retirees, whether based on a threshold of age, date of retirement, income level, or any combination thereof.

But for most retirees, like me, as much as we enjoy this benefit, the rest of Hawaii cannot afford to continue paying for it. To continue providing this benefit will cost \$42 million for Fiscal Year 2012 and \$47 million for Fiscal Year 2013.

It is not fair during these difficult economic times to continue asking state taxpayers to pay this reimbursement for retirees who can afford to pay it themselves. We must also look ahead to our state's long-term future and eliminate unsustainable practices.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support.



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Teaching Today for Hawaii's Tomorrow

# LATE TESTIMONY

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1200 Ala Kapuna Street x Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Tel: (808) 833-2711 x Fax: (808) 839-7106 x Web: www.hsta.org

**Roger K. Takabayashi**  
President

**Wil Okabe**  
Vice President

**Karolyn Mossman**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Mike McCartney**  
Executive Director

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & LABOR

RE: SB 1268 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH  
BENEFITS TRUST FUND.

February 11, 2011

**WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT**  
**HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association strongly opposes SB 1268, which overturns current law that requires the State and the counties to reimburse retired employees for Medicare part B premiums through the employer-union trust fund. If enacted, SB 1268, would negatively impact recruitment of highly quality teachers.

State and other public employees are required to enroll in Medicare part B upon reaching the age of 65. The premiums for Medicare part B are currently reimbursed through their respective employer-union trust funds. This bill is problematic in that it will no longer require that employer-union trust funds be used to pay for public employee retirees' Medicare part B premiums, yet still require public employees to enroll in Medicare part B.

Employees would lose reimbursement of Medicare part B premiums, which cover medical services like doctors' services, outpatient care, and other medical services. If enacted, the consequence of this would be a shortage of qualified employees in many areas, including our public schools, which are already experiencing a shortage of teachers.

HSTA members understand the need to balance the state's budget but think that this bill places an unfair burden on all state workers, including teachers.

We strongly urge the committee not to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





Working Together for Hawaii

RETIREES UNIT

888 Mililani Street, Suite 601  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2991  
www.hgea.org

Telephone: 808.543.0054  
Facsimile: 808.550.8814

Hawaii Government Employees Association  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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February 11, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair, and Members  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
The Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 407  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee and Members:

**Re: S.B. 1268 – Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund**

On behalf of over 9,500 Hawaii Government Employees Association (HGEA) retirees, I speak in **opposition** of S.B. 1268 which seeks to eliminate the Medicare Part B reimbursements to the retirees and their spouses. This bill is an unconstitutional and unfair way to take a benefit protected by the State Constitution away from the retirees. Section 2, Article XVI of the Constitution clearly prohibits any accrued benefit due to a government retiree from being diminished or impaired. Section 87A-23 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes provides that the State "shall" pay an amount at least equal to the Medicare Part B premium paid by the retiree while he or she is alive, his or her spouse is alive, and his or her surviving spouse during the spouse's lifetime.

To balance the State budget on the backs of the retired public employees is inequitable. Contrary to what Governor Abercrombie said in his State-of-the-State address, retirees have always cooperated with the State whenever it faced financial difficulties in administering the health insurance program. It is my understanding in talking with some of the retirees that starting in the 1960's, the State began offering health insurance coverage to retirees and their spouses at no cost to the retiree. This was supposedly done to offset the low wages that everyone knew government employees were being paid and yet came to work for the State or county with the promise that once they retired they wouldn't have to worry about their benefits.

When the State needed to cut costs, they enacted the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) in 2001. All retirees age 65 years and older were required to be covered under Medicare Part B. Medicare Part B became the retirees' primary health care coverage with the EUTF as the secondary coverage. When this happened it shifted the burden of paying for the coverage from the State to the individual retiree and his or her spouse. The Medicare premium deductions are taken from the retirees' monthly Social Security check and the EUTF reimburses the retiree and his spouse for the monthly payments every quarter.

S.B. 1268

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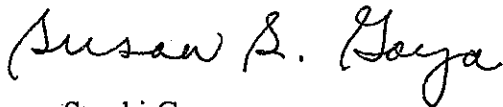
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Eliminating the Medicare Part B reimbursements would definitely be a financial hardship for many of our retiree members. They have come to depend on the reimbursements to help them with their living expenses. We understand the State's need to find revenue, but please do not ask the retirees to shoulder the burden of the State's financial crisis which is not of their doing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. The HGEA Retirees Unit strongly opposes S.B. 1268.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan Sasaki Goya

Executive Secretary, Retirees Unit



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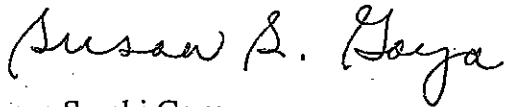
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify. The HGEA Retirees Unit strongly opposes S.B. 1268.

Respectfully submitted,

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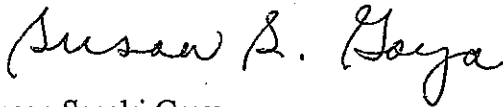
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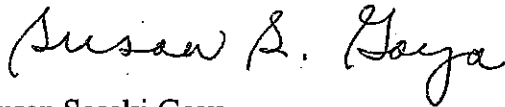
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When the State needed to cut costs, they enacted the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) in 2001. All retirees age 65 years and older were required to be covered under Medicare Part B. Medicare Part B became the retirees’ primary health care coverage with the EUTF as the secondary coverage. When this happened it shifted the burden of paying for the coverage from the State to the individual retiree and his or her spouse. The Medicare premium deductions are taken from the retirees’ monthly Social Security check and the EUTF reimburses the retiree and his spouse for the monthly payments every quarter.

S.B. 1268

February 11, 2011

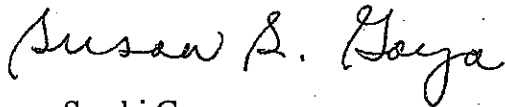
Page 2

Unlike what Governor Abercrombie stated, the reimbursements were not a "bonus" given to the retirees. The reimbursements under the EUTF paid back the retiree and his or her spouse for the up-front payments of the Medicare Part B premiums. Moving from making up-front payments and being reimbursed by the State every quarter to eliminating the reimbursements completely would mean those retirees 65 years and older would be picking up virtually all of their health care costs that the State should be responsible for.

Eliminating the Medicare Part B reimbursements would definitely be a financial hardship for many of our retiree members. They have come to depend on the reimbursements to help them with their living expenses. We understand the State's need to find revenue, but please do not ask the retirees to shoulder the burden of the State's financial crisis which is not of their doing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. The HGEA Retirees Unit strongly opposes S.B. 1268.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan S. Goya".

Susan Sasaki Goya

Executive Secretary, Retirees Unit



Working Together for Hawaii

RETIREES UNIT

888 Mililani Street, Suite 601  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2991  
www.hgea.org

Telephone: 808.543.0054  
Facsimile: 808.550.8814

Hawaii Government Employees Association  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

February 11, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair, and Members  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
The Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 407  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee and Members:

**Re: S.B. 1268 – Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund**

On behalf of over 9,500 Hawaii Government Employees Association (HGGEA) retirees, I speak in **opposition** of S.B. 1268 which seeks to eliminate the Medicare Part B reimbursements to the retirees and their spouses. This bill is an unconstitutional and unfair way to take a benefit protected by the State Constitution away from the retirees. Section 2, Article XVI of the Constitution clearly prohibits any accrued benefit due to a government retiree from being diminished or impaired. Section 87A-23 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes provides that the State “shall” pay an amount at least equal to the Medicare Part B premium paid by the retiree while he or she is alive, his or her spouse is alive, and his or her surviving spouse during the spouse’s lifetime.

To balance the State budget on the backs of the retired public employees is inequitable. Contrary to what Governor Abercrombie said in his State-of-the-State address, retirees have always cooperated with the State whenever it faced financial difficulties in administering the health insurance program. It is my understanding in talking with some of the retirees that starting in the 1960’s, the State began offering health insurance coverage to retirees and their spouses at no cost to the retiree. This was supposedly done to offset the low wages that everyone knew government employees were being paid and yet came to work for the State or county with the promise that once they retired they wouldn’t have to worry about their benefits.

When the State needed to cut costs, they enacted the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) in 2001. All retirees age 65 years and older were required to be covered under Medicare Part B. Medicare Part B became the retirees’ primary health care coverage with the EUTF as the secondary coverage. When this happened it shifted the burden of paying for the coverage from the State to the individual retiree and his or her spouse. The Medicare premium deductions are taken from the retirees’ monthly Social Security check and the EUTF reimburses the retiree and his spouse for the monthly payments every quarter.

S.B. 1268

February 11, 2011

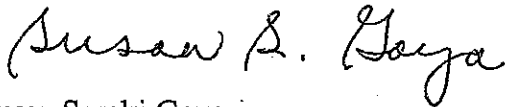
Page 2

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Eliminating the Medicare Part B reimbursements would definitely be a financial hardship for many of our retiree members. They have come to depend on the reimbursements to help them with their living expenses. We understand the State's need to find revenue, but please do not ask the retirees to shoulder the burden of the State's financial crisis which is not of their doing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. The HGEA Retirees Unit strongly opposes S.B. 1268.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan S. Goya".

Susan Sasaki Goya

Executive Secretary, Retirees Unit



Working Together for Hawaii

RETIREES UNIT

888 Mililani Street, Suite 601  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2991  
www.hgea.org

Telephone: 808.543.0054  
Facsimile: 808.550.8814

Hawaii Government Employees Association  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

February 11, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair, and Members  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
The Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 407  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee and Members:

**Re: S.B. 1268 – Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund**

On behalf of over 9,500 Hawaii Government Employees Association (HGEA) retirees, I speak in opposition of S.B. 1268 which seeks to eliminate the Medicare Part B reimbursements to the retirees and their spouses. This bill is an unconstitutional and unfair way to take a benefit protected by the State Constitution away from the retirees. Section 2, Article XVI of the Constitution clearly prohibits any accrued benefit due to a government retiree from being diminished or impaired. Section 87A-23 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes provides that the State "shall" pay an amount at least equal to the Medicare Part B premium paid by the retiree while he or she is alive, his or her spouse is alive, and his or her surviving spouse during the spouse's lifetime.

To balance the State budget on the backs of the retired public employees is inequitable. Contrary to what Governor Abercrombie said in his State-of-the-State address, retirees have always cooperated with the State whenever it faced financial difficulties in administering the health insurance program. It is my understanding in talking with some of the retirees that starting in the 1960's, the State began offering health insurance coverage to retirees and their spouses at no cost to the retiree. This was supposedly done to offset the low wages that everyone knew government employees were being paid and yet came to work for the State or county with the promise that once they retired they wouldn't have to worry about their benefits.

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S.B. 1268

February 11, 2011

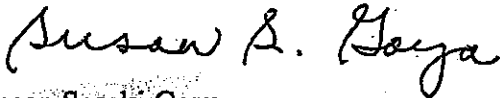
Page 2

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify. The HGEA Retirees Unit strongly opposes S.B. 1268.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Sasaki Goya

Executive Secretary, Retirees Unit

# LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG  
INTERIM DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 1268

February 11, 2011

RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST  
FUND

Senate Bill No. 1268 eliminates Medicare Part B reimbursements for retired employee-beneficiaries and the spouses of employee-beneficiaries who are retired employees.

The Department of Budget and Finance supports this Administration bill which would eliminate the Medicare Part B reimbursement for all retired employee-beneficiaries and their spouses. The Administration proposed this measure to cease the practice of State tax dollars paying for medical insurance that is already paid for by individuals' social security.

Currently, there are 22,673 retirees and 7,464 spouses receiving the Medicare Part B reimbursement. Most of the retirees and spouses receive a quarterly benefit of \$289.20, while a small number receive a quarterly benefit of \$1,060.80. Medicare Part B reimbursements are projected to cost the State general fund \$41.7 million in FY 12 and \$46.8 million in FY 13, and are provided even if the spouse may never have been a State or county employee.

Eliminating the reimbursement is one way of containing the ever-increasing cost of retiree health benefits paid by State and county employers and, thus, reducing the burden on taxpayers. Furthermore, this measure will facilitate sustainability of benefits under the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund.

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET & FISCAL SERVICES  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

530 SOUTH KING STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3900 • FAX: (808) 768-3179 • INTERNET: www.honolulu.gov/hr

**LATE TESTIMONY**

PETER B. CARLISLE  
MAYOR



MICHAEL R. HANSEN  
DIRECTOR

February 11, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
The Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 1268  
Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union  
Health Benefits Trust Fund

The City and County of Honolulu offers the following comments related to Senate Bill 1268 which will eliminate the Medicare Part B reimbursement for retirees and their spouses.

The City is supportive of the State's initiatives, such as this one, aimed at addressing the significant benefits liabilities we face. In the past fiscal year the City's cost for the Medicare Part B reimbursement was approximately \$6.3 million.

We realize this is a difficult issue that will touch many lives, but we also know that benefit costs overall have become unsustainable and tough decisions have to be made today so that even more drastic measures are not needed in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1268.

Yours truly,

  
Michael R. Hansen, Director  
Department of Budget & Fiscal Services

  
Noel T. Ono, Director  
Department of Human Resources



# SHOPO

# LATE TESTIMONY

February 10, 2011



Senator Clayton Hee and the members of the Judiciary & Labor Committee

DATE: February 11, 2011  
TIME: 9:15AM  
PLACE: State Capitol  
Conference Room 016  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

PRESIDENT  
Tenari F. Ma'afala

VICE PRESIDENT  
Malcolm Lutu

TREASURER  
James "Kimo" Smith

SECRETARY  
Bryson M. Ponce

DIRECTORS AT LARGE  
Michael Cusumano  
John Ha'ina  
Jeffrey-James Lee

HONOLULU CHAPTER CHAIR  
Stanley Aquino

HAWAII CHAPTER CHAIR  
John Stewart

KAUAI CHAPTER CHAIR  
Jesse Guirao

MAUI CHAPTER CHAIR  
Michael Bates

Testimony Re: SB1268 - RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

Senator Clayton Hee and the members of the Judiciary & Labor Committee

I, Tenari Ma'afala, President of The State Of Hawaii Organization of Police Officer ("SHOPO") who represents over 2000 members across the State does not support the passage of SB1268 to become law. We do not support the elimination of Medicare Part B reimbursements for retired employee beneficiaries and the spouses of employee beneficiaries who are retired employees.

Our retired Police Officers who, for their entire careers, risked their lives everyday to protect our great State of Hawaii or their beneficiaries would suffer financially if their premium reimbursements were eliminated and so would the beneficiaries of the brave Police Officers killed in the line of duty.

For this reason SHOPO DOES NOT SUPPORT the passage of SB1268.

Sincerely,

Tenari Ma'afala  
SHOPO

Main Office & Honolulu Chapter  
1717 Hee Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-3125  
Ph: (808) 847-4676 "84 SHOPO"  
Fax: (808) 841-4618  
Toll Free: (800) 590-4576

Hawaii Chapter Office  
688 Kingole Street, Room 220B  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
Ph: (808) 934-3406  
Fax: (808) 934-3210

Maui Chapter Office  
1887 Wai Pa Loop, Suite #2  
Waikuku, Hawaii 96753  
Ph: (808) 242-6123  
Fax: (808) 242-0519

Kauai Chapter Office  
3146 Akahi Street, Unit 2  
Lihue, Hawaii 96769  
P.O. Box 1706  
Lihue, Hawaii 96766  
Ph: (808) 246-0911

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## HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1463, AFL-CIO  
2305 S. BERETANIA ST., RM. 202, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826-1493  
TELEPHONE (808) 949-1566 FAX: (808) 952-6003  
WEBSITE: [www.hawaiifirefighters.org](http://www.hawaiifirefighters.org)

## LATE TESTIMONY

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
The Senate  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
February 11, 2011

Testimony by  
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association

S.B. No. 1268 RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND.

My name is Robert H. Lee and I am the President of the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO. HFFA represents the 2,800 active and retired professional fire fighters throughout the State. HFFA strongly opposes S.B. No. 1268, which eliminates the Medicare Part B reimbursements for employee-beneficiaries who are retired employees and their spouse.

Article XVI, Section 2, of the Hawaii State Constitution, is clear in its construction that accrued benefits "shall not be diminished or impaired." This proposal clearly diminishes an accrued benefit. The current statute also mandates Medicare eligible employees to enroll in Medicare Part B as a requirement for coordinated medical benefits through the EUTF.

HFFA respectfully opposes S.B. No. 1268.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 4:38 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** ckosora@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1268 on 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM

# LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for JDL 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM SB1268

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: katie KOSORA  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone: (808) 969-3009  
E-mail: [ckosora@aol.com](mailto:ckosora@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

Comments:  
Thank you for letting me provide testimony in opposition of SB1268 which would affect retirees and current employees. Twenty four years ago I chose public service as opposed to the private sector for service to others and for the benefits that were offered. In passing this bill, it will create financial hardship for many. Please deeply consider not breaking the promises that were made to the public workers for their dedicated service. If you must pass, then consideration should be given to gross income. Thank you. Respectfully, Katie Kosora

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 4:08 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** arakakie003@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1268 on 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM

## LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for JDL 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM SB1268

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: EARL ARAKAKI  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 91-030 Amio Street Ewa Beach, HI, 96706  
Phone: 689-3400  
E-mail: [arakakie003@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:arakakie003@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

**Comments:**

SENATE BILL 1268  
SENATE JUDICIARY AND LABOR COMMITTEE  
February 11, 2011, Friday  
TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION BY  
Earl Arakaki, Retired, Honolulu Police Department  
91-030 Amio Street, Ewa Beach, HI., 96706

Senator Hee, and members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee.

I am testifying in opposition to Senate Bill 1268.

From the mid-1960's to 1997 Hawaii's lawmakers constantly balanced the states budget to detriment of public workers and retirees by raiding the state Employees Retirement System (ERS). In 1997, they promised to stop taking ERS money passing Act 327, only to return in 1999 with Act-100, which provided the ERS be raided, "one last time" to the tune of \$347 million. ERS members were hopeful after Act-100 of 1999, that it was the last time. Instead, lawmakers passed Act-147 (HB2460), of 2002, to prolong the states unfunded liability payments to the ERS. That same year the State Of Hawaii Organization Of Police Officers a lawsuit to have that money returned to the ERS prevailed in Hawaii Supreme Court. That money was never returned to the ERS thus another way to balance the budget on the backs of public workers and retirees. Sure the promise not to raid the system was kept. However, lawmakers simply refused to fully fund the system to where today its unfunded liability is the worst in the nation.

Then in 2001, Governor Cayetano and the Legislature led by then Senator Hanabusa had another scheme to balance the budget at the expense of public workers and retirees. They ended our defined benefit health plans under then Hawaii Public Employees Health Fund system and created a defined contribution Employee-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund Board (EUTF) based on contributions provided at the pleasure of the legislature to EUTF. Retirees were told not to worry as the same level of health coverage will be maintained. That was a bald face lie. Health coverage has consistently eroded every year since the inception of EUTF as the EUTF board has to shop around for what's affordable based on what the state contributes.

Few weeks ago I listened to Governor Abercrombie's state of the state speech. The governor proposed to balance the states budget by "ending the current practice of state-funded reimbursement for federal Medicare Part B for Hawaii government employees...a

&quot;bonus paid for by taxpayers,&quot; saying he, &quot;did not earn it...&quot; Which brings us to Senate Bill 1268, another scheme to balance the budget at the expense of retirees by not reimbursing their Medicare Part-B payments.

The Governor said he, &quot;did not earn it.&quot;. He called it a &quot;bonus.&quot; It's not a &quot;bonus.&quot; This is an accrued benefit. The Governor didn't earn it. But State and county retirees certainly earned there accrued benefit for work during the most productive years of their lives.

All state and county retirees are forced by EUTF to purchase Medicare Part-B or lose their retiree health coverage. Forcing ERS members to purchase Medicare Part-B saves the state money even after reimbursement.

I am not a lawyer but I believe the state would be open for law suits as this &quot;accrued benefit&quot; and is a &quot;contractual relationship.&quot; (Article 16 (2) Hawaii Constitution)

Please do not once again balance the budget at the expense of public worker retirees. Please do not pass Senate Bill 1268.

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 4:04 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** tanakathu@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1268 on 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM SB1268

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: thu tanaka  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [tanakathu@yahoo.com](mailto:tanakathu@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

Comments:

The Senate  
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
Regular Session of 2011  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

**LATE TESTIMONY**

February 11, 2011

S.B. 1268 – RELATING TO  
THE HAWAII EMPLOYER UNION  
HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong opposition of the S.B. 1268**, which would eliminate the Medicare Part B reimbursements for retired employee-beneficiaries and their spouses. **I prefer and support H.B. 1041, H.D. 1**, which would affect prospective employees only.

My name is Ronald Ching, and I worked as a Meter Technician for the City & County of Honolulu for 23 years. As a government employee, I dedicated my career to public service. I chose to work for less pay than my private-sector counterparts for ensured health benefits upon retirement. By eliminating the Medicare Part B reimbursements, I will be forced to pay an additional \$1,385 per year. Including my spouse, our household would expend approximately \$2,770 annually on doctor's fees and medical expenses. I am saddened to say that my family cannot afford this additional financial burden. It deeply troubles me that the Legislature is considering changing my benefits. Retirement promises that were made upon accepting employment 1987 ago should not be broken today.

**I urge you to pass a Senate version similar to H.B. 1041, H.D. 1.** Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition of S.B. 1268, as it is currently written.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Ching.

TO : COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.

HEARING: 9:15 am Friday, February 11, 2011  
Conference Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

SUBJECT: SB 1268 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

POSITION: I **oppose** SB 1268 which would eliminate Medicare Part B reimbursements for retired employee-beneficiaries and the spouses of employee-beneficiaries who are retired employees.

**RATIONALE:**

§ Reimbursement for the Medicare Part B Premium, which is a minimum of \$115.30 per month in 2011, would create severe hardship for many retired citizens on fixed incomes. The vast majority of retired persons have limited incomes and limited earning power.

§ The Reimbursement of this premium has been a promised benefit to public workers and has figured into individual=s retirement planning. To suddenly suspend the reimbursement for those retired would be unfair. Figuring out the financial viability of retirement is a challenge, but changing the rules after the game is just unfair.

§ Public employee salaries are often below those of comparable workers in the private sector. As a retired university professor, I know my salary was very modest by comparison with professors in other universities. The modest salaries have been offset by the promise of generous retirement benefits, including the payment of our medical premium.

§ Eliminating this benefit at the same time that legislation proposes to begin taxing the retirement pension of public employees, is to create an severe blow to the finances of retired citizens. I support the taxation of pensions of higher income retirees, but taking away the promise of reimbursement for the Medicare premium in addition asks retirees to bear more than their share.

**Possible amendments**

Although I opposed this bill, I would like to suggest three possibilities for amendments which would at least make it more palatable:

1. The proposal could grandfather in existing employees;
2. The proposal could grandfather in present retirees.
3. The proposal could limit the reimbursement to the minimum level, which in 2011 is \$115.30 for persons earning under \$85,000 a year.



TO : COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.

HEARING: 9:15 am Friday, February 11, 2011  
Conference Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

SUBJECT: SB 1268 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Although I opposed this bill as unfair and potentially having serious financial consequences for public sector retirees in Hawaii, I realize that the state does need to take some steps to assure the viability of future benefits. I understand and support the move to tax pensions of higher earning retirees B there is a reasonable argument for this proposal.

In regard to the present SB1268, which proposes to eliminate the reimbursement of Medicare Part B premiums entirely beginning in July 2011, I suggest that the Legislature consider several possible amendments which would lessen the unfairness and the financial blow to current retirees:

1. The proposal could be amended to grandfather in existing employees and present retirees;
2. The proposal could be amended to grandfather in present retirees;
3. The proposal could limit the reimbursement to the minimum level, which in 2011 is \$115.30 per month for persons earning under \$85,000 a year. Persons earning over \$85,000 would pay the difference. For example, the Part B Premium in 2011 for persons earning \$85,000.01 to \$107,000 is \$184.50 per month. Such individuals would pay the additional \$46.10 per month. The adjustment goes up to \$253.70 per month above the base \$115.30 for persons earning more than \$214,000 per year. (The couple amounts are double those cited.)

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute my thoughts on SB 1268.

nk you

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 3:31 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** cathy@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1268 on 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM SB1268

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Cathy R. Lewis  
Organization: HGE DOH retiree  
Address: 82-1027 Kaimalu Place Captain Cook, HI.  
Phone: 808-328-9900  
E-mail: [cathy@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:cathy@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

**Comments:**

I oppose SB 1268 that takes Medicare B reimbursement out of the pockets of deserving State of HI. retirees. We worked long and hard giving the state our best and were promised this important benefit. At our age health is so important why are you not supporting us???? We are now on fixed income and budgets so PLEASE RECONSIDER, sincerely Cathy R. Lewis

The Senate  
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
Regular Session of 2011  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

February 11, 2011

S.B. 1268 – RELATING TO  
THE HAWAII EMPLOYER UNION  
HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong opposition of the S.B. 1268**, which would eliminate the Medicare Part B reimbursements for retired employee-beneficiaries and their spouses. **I prefer and support H.B. 1041; H.D. 1**, which would affect prospective employees only.

My name is Jacqueline Ching, and I worked as a Library Technician for the University of Hawaii Library for 28 years. As a government employee, I dedicated my career to public service. I chose to work for less pay than my private-sector counterparts for ensured health benefits upon retirement. By eliminating the Medicare Part B reimbursements, I will be forced to pay an additional \$1,385 per year. Including my spouse, our household would expend approximately \$2,770 annually on doctor's fees and medical expenses. I am saddened to say that my family cannot afford this additional financial burden. It deeply troubles me that the Legislature is considering changing my benefits. Retirement promises that were made upon accepting employment 1967 ago should not be broken today.

**I urge you to pass a Senate version similar to H.B. 1041, H.D. 1.** Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition of S.B. 1268, as it is currently written.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline S. Ching

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 2:59 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** kealohae002@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1268 on 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Testimony for JDL 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM SB1268

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Edward Kealoha  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 54-307 Kawaewae Way Hauula, Hi  
Phone: 808-293-1851  
E-mail: [kealohae002@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kealohae002@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

**Comments:**

I think that this bill is for the birds. You devote your time and energy to serve the people of Hawaii for 37 years, putting your life on the line for other peoples lives and property and then retiring hoping to live the remainder of your life not worrying about added costs and now we are faced with something like this. Why don't you tell the people that are introducing this bill try wearing our shoes.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 1:04 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** juwal6@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1268 on 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Testimony for JDL 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM SB1268

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Judy Waldman  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 7156 Hawaii Kai Dr. Honolulu HI  
Phone: 8083954122  
E-mail: [juwal6@aol.com](mailto:juwal6@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

**Comments:**

I left private sector nursing in 1987 for an RN position with AMHD despite the cut in pay because I trusted that I would be rewarded with free medical once I retire. My clinic has downsized from 5 RN's to only 1 (me) and there are times I don't know if I can go on. Nevertheless, I have turned down attractive job offers because I cherish the retiree medical benefit that I was promised. Please don't punish those of us who can retire now or have already retired.

February 10, 2011

## LATE TESTIMONY

**The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair**  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol, Room 016  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**HEARING: Friday, February 11, 2011 at 9:15 a.m.**

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

I am Jo Ann T. Espinueva, and I have worked as a Secretary II for the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa for over 41 years. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong opposition to S.B. 1268** which would eliminate the Medicare Part B reimbursements for prospective employees, and would not affect current retirees and employees already in the system.

As a government employee, I dedicated my career to public service. Over 41 years ago, promises were made, upon accepting employment, that I would receive Medicare Part B reimbursements. By eliminating the Medicare Part B reimbursements, I will be forced to pay an additional \$1,385 per year.

My husband will also be affected as he works for the State. Including my spouse, our household would expend approximately \$2,770 annually on doctor's fees and medical expenses.

I am saddened to say that my family cannot afford this additional financial burden. As I am nearing retirement, my family is in need of these important health benefits.

**I strongly urge that this measure be held.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

**Jo Ann Espinueva**

Digitally signed by Jo Ann Espinueva  
DN: cn=Jo Ann Espinueva, o, ou,  
email=espinuev@hawaii.edu, c=US  
Date: 2011.02.10 12:40:00 -10'00'

Jo Ann T. Espinueva

---

**From:** Miraha@dhs.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 4:12 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** SB 1268

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

February 10, 2011

S.B. 1268 – RELATING TO  
THE HAWAII EMPLOYER UNION  
HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong opposition of the S.B. 1268**, which would eliminate the Medicare Part B reimbursements for retired employee-beneficiaries and their spouses. **I prefer and support H.B. 1061, H.D. 1**, which would affect prospective employees only.

My name is Marcia Iraha, and I have been a State employee since 1986, first as a Clerk Typist with the Department of Health and, for the past 19 years, as a Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist with the Department of Human Services. While my time with the State has been very gratifying, it has not been without personal sacrifice, particularly regarding the pay I have received compared with what I would have been able to make in the private sector. However, I have been somewhat comforted by the fact that State retirement benefits such as free medical insurance for me and my spouse would partially compensate for the pay and Social Security discrepancies. My mother is a retired State employee so I understood how vital medical insurance is, particularly as we age. Needless to say, she also was promised, counts on, and stands to lose her free medical insurance should H.B. 1041 be passed, something she will not be able to afford on top of her co-payments for several medications and other living expenses. As you know, many of our senior citizens and others reduce or altogether eliminate their prescribed medications due to an inability to pay for such, resulting in further declining health, not to mention even higher costs for everyone to share.

As government employees, we get little sympathy from, and in fact are constant targets of, the general public and this unpleasantness is something we somehow manage to accept as a price for "being paid by [their] tax dollars." However, it truly upsets and concerns me that the Legislature thinks so little of the sacrifices of Hawaii's public servants that it would renege on the promises we were given at time of hire. In the past few years, we have had to take on the work of those who have voluntarily left and whose positions were then "frozen," as well as those who were laid off for economic reasons, all the while dependent on increasingly smaller budgets with which to perform our jobs, not to mention less time due to "Furlough Fridays." The stress of our jobs and reduced pay

alone has taken its toll and the added worry of not being able to retire as we had planned is more than we should be asked to accept, after decades of faithful service.

**I urge you to pass a Senate version similar to H.B. 1041, H.D. 1.** Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition of S.B. 1268, as it is currently written.

Respectfully submitted,

**Marcia Iraha**

Effective Immediately New Email Address: [miraha@dhs.hawaii.gov](mailto:miraha@dhs.hawaii.gov)



**From:** Vicki Kajioka [vkajioka@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 4:07 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Oppose S.B. 1268

S.B. 1268 – RELATING TO  
THE HAWAII EMPLOYER UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong opposition of the S.B. 1268**, which would eliminate the Medicare Part B reimbursements for retired employee-beneficiaries and their spouses. **I prefer and support H.B. 1061, H.D. 1**, which would affect prospective employees only.

My name is **Victoria Kajioka**, and I worked as a **Director** for the **Hawaii Department of Education** for **more than 42** years. As a government employee, I dedicated my career to public service. I chose to work for less pay than my private-sector counterparts for ensured health benefits upon retirement. Eliminating the Medicare Part B reimbursements will place an unanticipated burden on our family finances. I am saddened that many retirees will not be able to afford this additional expense. It deeply troubles me that the Legislature is considering changing benefits. Retirement promises that were made upon accepting employment **almost 43** years ago should not be broken today.

**I urge you to pass a Senate version similar to H.B. 1041, H.D. 1.** Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition of S.B. 1268, as it is currently written.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Victoria Kajioka**

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 10:46 PM  
**To:** JDLEstimony  
**Cc:** jobekim@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1268 on 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Testimony for JDL 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM SB1268

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Beverly Kim  
Organization: HGEA  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [jobekim@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jobekim@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

Comments:

File attachment: WINWORD.EXE

The file attached to this email was removed because the file name is not allowed.

# LATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 13, 2011 9:13 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** leiahi@me.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1268 on 2/14/2011 9:15:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 2/14/2011 9:15:00 AM SB1268

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Linda Wong  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [leiahi@me.com](mailto:leiahi@me.com)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2011

**Comments:**

I have already planned out my life with the benefits i retired with. Cut the new employees. Do not cut into those who have already planned their life with good faith in the government.  
Sincerely, Linda Wong.

# LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony submitted to the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Committee meeting Monday, 2/14/2011

Time: 9:15 a.m.

Place: 016

SUBJECT: S1268 RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER\_UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND.

POSITION: SUPPORT

Testimony:

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, Members of the Committee:

I am a state retiree receiving the EUTF retiree benefits. I am appalled at the selfishness of my fellow state retirees as reported in the media; I am even more appalled and embarrassed by their rude and disrespectful behavior towards Governor Abercrombie and your committee, in your committee meeting of 2/11/11 as reported in the media.

I have been following closely the budgetary quandary facing the State, and the dangerous deficits in funds available to support state retirement commitments. While it is important that state retirees with lower incomes be spared any cuts, the rest of us who have enough to live on, to eat out occasionally, to travel from time to time, we should be willing to sacrifice some of our comfort for the good of the poorer retirees and to help prevent drastic cuts to education and health programs.

I think Governor Abercrombie's suggestions of taxing pensions and stopping the payment of Medicare premiums are sensible with the caveat, as proposed by the Governor but not included in the legislation before you, that low income retirees should not be included in these cuts.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony. I regret I'm unable to present it in person.

Beppie J. Shapiro

# LATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 12, 2011 8:54 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** vlmedeiros@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1268 on 2/14/2011 9:15:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 2/14/2011 9:15:00 AM SB1268

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Virgil Medeiros  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [vlmedeiros@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:vlmedeiros@hawaiiantel.net)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2011

**Comments:**

This bill unfairly targets retirees. Government retirees have worked hard to earn their retirement benefits. Elimination of the reimbursement will create a financial hardship for many retirees.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 12, 2011 3:50 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** MLMeaney@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1268 on 2/14/2011 9:15:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 2/14/2011 9:15:00 AM SB1268

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Michael L. Meaney  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [MLMeaney@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:MLMeaney@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2011

**Comments:**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of S.B. 1268 is to eliminate Medicare Part B reimbursements for retired employee-beneficiaries and the spouses of employee-beneficiaries who are retired employees.

**POSITION:** I am writing in strong opposition to S.B. 1268 and in support of a version similar to H.B. 1041, H.D. 1., which would eliminate the Medicare Part B reimbursements for prospective employees, and would not affect current retirees and employees already in the system.

I recently retired from the Department of the Attorney General, having worked my entire career as a Deputy Prosecutor, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Administrator of the Child Support Enforcement Agency and as a Deputy Attorney General.

It appears highly likely that if passed, this bill would be found to be an unconstitutional attempt to diminish an accrued benefit that is due to government retirees in violation of Article XVI, Section 2 of the Hawaii Constitution. This is especially true in light of last year's Supreme Court decision in *Everson v. State*, which held that health care benefits for retirees are accrued benefits that cannot be diminished.

More importantly, however, the Governor's attempt to solve the fiscal problems of the State caused by decades-old government inefficiency, and other, current economic factors, through this and other bills designed to make the most vulnerable of our community pay that cost through program reductions and benefits reductions is simply unconscionable. For him to say that the current retirement benefits were not "earned" by people devoting twenty (20), thirty (30), forty (40) or more years of service is both insulting and demeaning to those who have served. Finally, I feel that it is grossly unfair to attempt to reduce benefits of those who have already retired or are close to retirement.

Retirement promises that were made by the State to workers who devoted their lives to government employment should not be broken today.

Therefore, I urge you to pass a Senate version similar to H.B. 1041, H.D. 1., or in the alternative, simply refuse to move this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

# LATE TESTIMONY

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 12:15 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** bmauigirl2000@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1268 on 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM SB1268

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Barbara A Tanner  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [bmauigirl2000@yahoo.com](mailto:bmauigirl2000@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/11/2011

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

Re: SB1268  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND.  
Report Title: Hawaii Employer Union Health Benefits Trust Fund; Medicare Part B Reimbursements  
Description: To eliminate Medicare Part B reimbursements for retired employee beneficiaries and the spouses of employee beneficiaries who are retired employees.

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

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate:

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

Please defeat this measure.

Barbara Tanner, MS, APRN  
Retired State employee  
Department of Health  
808-572-7505  
[Bmauigirl2000@yahoo.com](mailto:Bmauigirl2000@yahoo.com)

# LATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 11:40 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** kalea2006@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1268 on 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM SB1268

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: susan williamson  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [kalea2006@hotmail.com](mailto:kalea2006@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/11/2011

Comments:



# LATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 11:06 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** maryfnielsen@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1268 on 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM SB1268

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Mary Nielsen  
Organization: HGEA Retiree  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [maryfnielsen@hotmail.com](mailto:maryfnielsen@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/11/2011

**Comments:**

I have worked for the State of Hawaii and County of Hawaii for 20 years, often without any benefits as an Emergency Hire. I am now receiving a pension from the State of Hawaii and was promised by the state of Hawaii that I would be reimbursed for my Medicare premium. Do not take this away from the seniors of the State, who can least afford this extra cost. Thank you for your concern

# LATE TESTIMONY

## TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB1268

As a member of HGEA who is a few years away from retirement, I join thousands of my peers in opposing SB1268. Please do not force our retirees to bear the cost of bailing out our state budget.

While it is legitimate to ask today whether it was wise for the state to promise this benefit, the debate on such a question should not excuse us from the obligation we owe these retirees and current vested employees. These employees were promised a benefit and it is up to our generation to make good on that promise.

As legislators who were elected to represent all of the people of Hawaii, please do not single out a sector of society to bear the burden of balancing the budget. Please show that you stand for the benefits that they – and you – have earned. Aloha pumehana,

Janet Snyder  
Hakalau

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 8:38 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** bmaugirl2000@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1268 on 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM SB1268

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Barbara A Tanner  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [bmaugirl2000@yahoo.com](mailto:bmaugirl2000@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/11/2011

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

Re: SB1268  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND.  
Report Title: Hawaii Employer Union Health Benefits Trust Fund; Medicare Part B Reimbursements  
Description: To eliminate Medicare Part B reimbursements for retired employee beneficiaries and the spouses of employee beneficiaries who are retired employees.

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

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

Please defeat this measure.

Barbara Tanner, MS, APRN  
Retired State employee  
Department of Health  
808-572-7505  
[bmaugirl2000@yahoo.com](mailto:bmaugirl2000@yahoo.com)

# LATE TESTIMONY

The Senate  
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
Regular Session of 2011  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

February 11, 2011

S.B. 1268 – RELATING TO  
THE HAWAII EMPLOYER UNION  
HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong opposition of the S.B. 1268**, which would eliminate the Medicare Part B reimbursements for retired employee-beneficiaries and their spouses. **I prefer and support H.B. 1061, H.D. 1**, which would affect prospective employees only.

My name is **Susan Duffy**, and I worked as an income maintenance worker for the Department of Human Services for 18 years. As a government employee, I dedicated my career to public service. I chose to work for less pay than my private-sector counterparts for ensured health benefits upon retirement. By eliminating the Medicare Part B reimbursements, I will be forced to pay an additional \$1,385 per year. Including my spouse, our household would expend approximately \$2,770 annually on doctor's fees and medical expenses. This adds \$200 to my monthly budget. I am saddened to say that my family cannot afford this additional financial burden. We planned on downsizing to a smaller home but real estate values will not allow that at present. When I retired it was with the knowledge that certain expenses would be covered. I would return to work but the economy offers no venue. . It deeply troubles me that the Legislature is considering changing my benefits. Retirement promises that were made upon accepting employment **twenty-some years** ago should not be broken today.

I know that I am a healthy 67 year old . However, what will this bill do to former state employees in their seventies and eighties whose pensions are smaller than mine based on past incomes of a time when salaries were minimal? If medicare b is no longer reimbursed for them it will most likely take half their pensions. This is not a fitting repayment for years of public service. Please do not contribute to this war against the middle class that is prevalent today. We cannot afford it.

**I urge you to pass a Senate version similar to H.B. 1041, H.D. 1.** Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition of S.B. 1268, as it is currently written.

Respectfully submitted,

**Susan Kelly Duffy**

**Susank44@gmail.com**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 10:00 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** gerraine\_s@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1268 on 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Testimony for JDL 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM SB1268

Conference room: 016

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: gerraine santos

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [gerraine\\_s@hotmail.com](mailto:gerraine_s@hotmail.com)

Submitted on: 2/10/2011

Comments:

# LATE TESTIMONY

Hawaii State Senate  
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
Regular Session of 2011  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

February 11, 2011

S.B. 1268 – RELATING TO  
THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION  
HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong opposition of the S.B. 1268** which would eliminate the Medicare Part B reimbursements for current retirees and employees already in the system.

My name is Pamela Okihara, and I am a Recreation Director for the City and County of Honolulu. As a government employee I chose to work for less pay than my private-sector counterparts for ensured health benefits upon retirement. It deeply troubles me that the Legislature is considering changing my benefits. Retirement promises that were made upon my accepting employment 30 years ago should not be broken today. The retirees of today and present employees should not have to sacrifice their promised benefits to bail out the failing State budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

**Pamela Okihara**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 6:53 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** lmadsimms@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1268 on 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Testimony for JDL 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM SB1268

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: leroy simms jr  
Organization:  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [lmadsimms@yahoo.com](mailto:lmadsimms@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

Comments:

The Senate

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii Regular Session of 2011 Committee on Judiciary and Labor

February 11, 2011

S.B. 1268 - RELATING TO  
THE HAWAII EMPLOYER UNION  
HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

Leroy Simms Jr. Director At Large, Hawaii HGEA Athletic Director Hilo High School

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition of the S.B. 1268, which would eliminate the Medicare Part B reimbursements for retired employee-beneficiaries and their spouses. I prefer and support H.B. 1061, H.D. 1, which would affect prospective employees only.

My name is Leroy Simms Jr. and I have worked as an educator for over 33 years for the department of education on the big island of Hawaii for entire career as a government employee, I dedicated my career to public service, first with the county parks department overseeing the Pearl City Highlands complex, to lifeguarding in Hilo. I chose to work for less pay than my private-sector counterparts for ensured health benefits upon retirement. By eliminating the Medicare Part B reimbursements, I will be forced to pay an additional \$1,385 per year. Including my spouse, our household would expend approximately \$2,770 annually on doctor's fees and medical expenses. I am saddened to say that my family cannot afford this additional financial burden. It deeply troubles me that the Legislature is considering changing my benefits. Retirement promises that were made upon accepting employment over 33 years ago should not be broken today.

I urge you to pass a Senate version similar to H.B. 1041, H.D. 1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition of S.B. 1268, as it is currently written.



---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 6:29 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** carold2654@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1268 on 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Testimony for JDL 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM SB1268

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Carol Ann Denis  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [carold2654@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:carold2654@hawaiiantel.net)  
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

**Comments:**

Please do not support SB1268. I am a retired State employee. I worked for DHS for 32 years. We were promised that upon retirement our Medicare premiums would be reimbursed to us by the State. I do not want the State to go back on it's promises. We should be grandfathered in! Thank you.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 5:47 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** livit.callentine@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1268 on 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM

**LAIL TESTIMONY**

Testimony for JDL 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM SB1268

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Livit Callentine  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 631 Meakanu Lane Apt 101 Wailuku, HI  
Phone: 808 268 5568  
E-mail: [livit.callentine@gmail.com](mailto:livit.callentine@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

**Comments:**

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition of the S.B. 1268, which would eliminate the Medicare Part B reimbursements for retired employee-beneficiaries and their spouses. I prefer and support H.B. 1061, H.D. 1, which would affect prospective employees only.

My name is Livit Callentine, and I have worked as a Planner IV for the County of Maui, Department of Planning for more than six years. As a government employee, I have dedicated my career to public service. I chose to work for less pay than my private-sector counterparts for ensured health benefits upon retirement. By eliminating the Medicare Part B reimbursements, I will be forced to pay an additional \$1,385 per year. I am saddened to say that I cannot afford this additional financial burden. It deeply troubles me that the Legislature is considering changing my benefits. Retirement promises that were made upon accepting employment more than six years ago should not be broken today.

I urge you to pass a Senate version similar to H.B. 1041, H.D. 1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition of S.B. 1268, as it is currently written.

Respectfully submitted,

Livit Callentine

Senate  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Friday, February 11, 2011; 9:15 a.m.  
Capitol Conf. Room 016  
Testimony - SB 1268

**LAIL TESTIMONY**

Chairman Hee and members of the Committee on Judiciary and on Labor.

My name is Deborah Soares and I am testifying in opposition to SB 1268. I urge your committee to hold this bill. I am testifying as an individual, representing no organization, business or other special interest.

My husband, Richard Soares, was a fire fighter for 30 years, serving with diligence and pride. He went down in two fires, Ainakoa and Woolsworth. His medical benefits and the department took good care of him then. Now that he is retired and has reached the age of 65, the State/County wants to push him aside. You have many retirees that are dependent on the small annuity they receive each month from the State/County, and their Social Security. Don't forget, what they received as a pension ten years ago, is not the same as those currently retiring. Wages were very different, a lot less, and the economy has not gotten better.

With prescription drugs going up, co-pays going up, how do you expect the elderly to survive. \$110.00 a month reimbursement makes a difference to our household. This amount is deducted from his small Social Security check each month. The quarterly reimbursement will make up the shortfall.

Please kokua our retirees but letting live with peace of mind.

# LAW TESTIMONY

February 10, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee and the members of the Judiciary & Labor  
Committee

DATE: February 11, 2011  
TIME: 9:15AM  
PLACE: State Capitol  
Conference Room 016  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Testimony Re: SB1268 - RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER UNION  
HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

Senator Clayton Hee and the members of the Judiciary & Labor  
Committee

I, Dayton Nakanelua, Executive Director of the United Public  
Workers (UPW), does not support the passage of SB1268. UPW does not  
support the elimination of Medicare Part B reimbursements for retired  
employee beneficiaries and the spouses of employee beneficiaries who are  
retired employees.

Sincerely,

Dayton Nakanelua  
United Public Workers

**LATE TESTIMONY**

The Senate  
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
Regular Session of 2011  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

February 11, 2011

S.B. 1268 – RELATING TO  
THE HAWAII EMPLOYER UNION  
HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong opposition of the S.B. 1268**, which would eliminate the Medicare Part B reimbursements for retired employee-beneficiaries and their spouses. **I prefer and support H.B. 1041, H.D. 1**, which would affect prospective employees only.

My name is Ann G. Tam Sing, and I worked for the Department of Human Services for 31 years, most recently as the Eligibility Administrator for Med-Quest. As a government employee, I dedicated my career to public service. I chose to work for less pay than my private-sector counterparts for ensured health benefits upon retirement. (For those that do not believe that we worked for less wages, when I retired and went to work for a private company for 3 years I was paid double what I made as a Med-Quest Administrator.) By eliminating the Medicare Part B reimbursements, I will be forced to pay an additional \$1,385 per year. Including my spouse, our household would expend approximately \$2,770 annually on doctor's fees and medical expenses. I am saddened to say that my family cannot afford this additional financial burden. It deeply troubles me that the Legislature is considering changing my benefits. Retirement promises that were made upon accepting employment 38 years ago should not be broken today..

**I urge you to pass a Senate version similar to H.B. 1041, H.D. 1.** Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition of S.B. 1268, as it is currently written.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann G. Tam Sing  
atamsing@hawaii.rr.com

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 3:57 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** mahalolois@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1268 on 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM

## LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for JDL 2/11/2011 9:15:00 AM SB1268

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Lois Lee  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [maalalolois@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:maalalolois@hawaiiantel.net)  
Submitted on: 2/11/2011

**Comments:**

Contracts are honest commitments between 2 parties! What are we teaching our children about honest government?? We elected intelligent officials to govern us. Where was the vision, planning and monitoring of the State budget?  
i.e. Take a hard look at DOH social benefits being axed as reported in the daily newspaper. It appeared that a number of programs were duplicated by use of different titles. Better management should have prevented it.  
Dishonest CEOs and many people buying homes beyond their means contributed to this financial crises. Do you see the correlation of the State spending beyond their means headed by a group of intelligent elected officials??. If you don't have it, use your prioritized funding list! Cut out the frills. Don't take away what the retirees were promised!

+

The Senate  
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
Regular Session of 2011  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

**LATE TESTIMONY**

February 11, 2011

S.B. 1268 – RELATING TO  
THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION  
HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong opposition of the S.B. 1268**, which would eliminate the Medicare Part B reimbursements for retired employee-beneficiaries and their spouses. **I prefer and support H.B. 1041, H.D. 1**, which would affect prospective employees only.

My name is Carole Odo, and I worked as a teacher for the Department of Education for over 20 years. As a government employee, I dedicated my career to public service and the children of Hawaii. I chose to work for less pay than my private-sector counterparts for ensured health benefits upon retirement. By eliminating the Medicare Part B reimbursements, I will be forced to pay an additional \$1,385 per year, as a recent widow I cannot afford this additional financial burden. It deeply troubles me that the Legislature is considering changing my benefits. Retirement promises that were made upon accepting employment over 30 years ago should not be broken today.

**I urge you to pass a Senate version similar to H.B. 1041, H.D. 1.** Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition of S.B. 1268, as it is currently written.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Odo

**From:** Chuck Bolden [cbolden@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 8:08 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** S.B. 1268

# LATE TESTIMONY

Chair Hae, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition of the S.B. 1268, which would eliminate the Medicare Part B reimbursements for retired employee-beneficiaries and their spouses. I prefer and support H.B. 1041, H.D. 1, which would affect prospective employees only.

My name is Charles Bolden, and I have worked in Human Resources for the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation and former Division of Community Hospital for almost 24 years. As a government employee, I dedicated my career to public service. I chose to work for less pay than my private-sector counterparts. I have always considered the retirement benefits package and the Health Benefits have been a very significant factor in my decision to stay all these years.

Although the Health Fund, now the EUTF, is not officially a part of the retirement plan, I think most State employees, like me, have always factored this heavily into their retirement plans. It troubles me that the legislature is considering eliminating the Medicare Part B reimbursements at the end of a career.

In human resources, I see so much abuse in so many areas where the State could be making changes to incentivize good employees, restructuring paid leave benefits, and eliminating abuse of generous benefits. It is discouraging that we are now considering changing the rules and the end of the game in a way that serves to disenfranchise those who have been loyal and faithful servants.

I urge you to pass a Senate version similar to H.B. 1041, H.D. 1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition of S.B. 1268, as it is currently written.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles T. Bolden



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**From:** Ellen [anden2@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 12:10 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** SB1268

The Senate  
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii Regular Session of 2011 Committee on Judiciary  
and Labor

February 11, 2011

S.B. 1268 - RELATING TO  
THE HAWAII EMPLOYER UNION  
HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition of the S.B. 1268,  
which would eliminate the Medicare Part B  
reimbursements for retired employee-beneficiaries and their spouses.  
I prefer and support H.B. 1061, H.D. 1, which would affect prospective employees only.

My name is Ellen Prais, and I worked as a RNIII for the Department of Health/HHSC for 30  
years. As a government employee, I dedicated my career to public service. I chose to work  
for less pay than my private-sector counterparts for ensured health benefits upon retirement.  
By eliminating the Medicare Part B reimbursements, I will be forced to pay an additional  
\$1,385 per year. Including my spouse, our household would expend approximately \$2,770  
annually on doctor's fees and medical expenses. I am saddened to say that my family cannot  
afford this additional financial burden. It deeply troubles me that the Legislature is  
considering changing my benefits. Retirement promises that were made upon accepting  
employment 30 years ago should not be broken today.

I urge you to pass a Senate version similar to H.B. 1041, H.D. 1.  
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition of S.B. 1268, as it  
is currently written.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen R Prais

**From:** G & R Dang [dangr004@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 5:47 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony re: SB1268

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Testimony Regarding Senate Bill 1268

Hearing date: February 11, 2011

Senate Judiciary & Labor committee: Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Senator Mike Gabbard, Senator Les Ihara Jr., Senator Sam Slom

**I OPPOSE SB 1268.** You are asking retirees and future retirees, who were promised free medical coverage upon retirement, to continue with "public servitude" even after their employment with the State is over. When Medicare is increasing cost share payments and decreasing benefits to the point that doctors are unwilling to accept patients with this coverage, and Social Security is not providing the cost of living allowance increases, you expect those who have retired to pay more for a benefit they were promised and worked long for?

The bill appears to scapegoat part of the financial woes of the State to the Medicare reimbursements being provided, as promised, to retirees of public government. How long will government continue to break promises and other written agreements or laws? How easy for politicians to forget that State employees receive less pay than our private counterparts and even less because of our mandatory contributions towards our future retirement. How easy it is to forget that the BENEFITS that government is trying to take away, were promised as part of a deal to lure qualified employees to put up with "government servitude" rather than make the "big bucks in the private industry".

I have been employed for the past 30 years as a Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist for the Department of Human Services, Vocational Rehabilitation program. I chose to work for the government because of my job but also knowing I would be able to retire with medical benefits and pension. My salary has always been lower than those in the private sector or Federal Government. I put up with the many pendulum swings of government which included salary compressions/shreddings, use of the ERS funds because it earned too much, eliminating the mandatory retirement contribution then reinstating it again, illegally using the EUTF funds in the name of a State Emergency to fund homeless projects, and furloughs which impacts my current and future retirement earnings. I put up with it all, and it is probably why Governor Abercrombie refers to government employees as "public servants". I had servant mentality, not employee mentality.

**PLEASE PASS HB 1041, H.D.1.** It doesn't break promises or agreements to anyone currently in government. It sets the tone for what new employees will expect and they can chose to enter public service knowing what they will get when they retire.

I know the financial status of government is limited. I understand we all have to make sacrifices and I am willing to do my share. But I will not carry all of the burden or blame for what is occurring in government, just because I am an employee and will soon be a retiree. I earned my retirement benefits. I've sacrificed and taken hits these 30 years and refuse to take more than necessary.

I appreciate your time and hope you will make wise decisions.

# LATE TESTIMONY

The medicare Part B reimbursement is an earned benefit for State of Hawaii retired employees. This should not be taken away from those who have already earned this benefit. If the legislature wishes to revise the benefit package for state employees, it may do so for new hires. This is an acceptable approach to reducing costs in the future. However, for those who have served in the state government and already retired, this is totally unacceptable.

Sincerely,

Phung Kim Giao

State of Hawaii/Dept. of Taxation, retired

# LATE TESTIMONY

The Senate  
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
Regular Session of 2011  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

February 11, 2011

S.B. 1268 - RELATING TO  
THE HAWAII EMPLOYER UNION  
HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong opposition of the S.B. 1268**, which would eliminate the Medicare Part B reimbursements for retired employee-beneficiaries and their spouses. **I prefer and support H.B. 1041, H.D. 1**, which would affect prospective employees only.

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

**I urge you to pass a Senate version similar to H.B. 1041, H.D. 1.** Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition of S.B. 1268, as it is currently written.

Respectfully submitted,



**Dorothy Shimomura**

THE 2011 SENATE JUDICIARY AND LABOR  
COMMITTEE

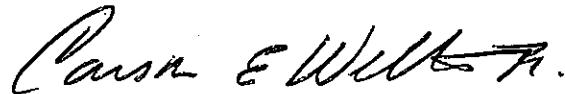
**LATE TESTIMONY**

February 11, 2011

Dear Senators and Representatives of the 2011 Legislative session.:

This comment is in opposition to Senate Bill 1268 and House bill HB1041. The Abercrombie administration has introduced the wrong headed notion that the State Retirees do not need to receive the current Medicare Part-B reimbursement because it is simply a "bonus" that the State of Hawaii can not afford to pay any longer. This Part-B reimbursement is not a bonus but a necessity for most our State of Hawaii Government Retirees to simply survive. These hardworking individuals toiled at wages that were substandard to comparable positions in the private sector for their entire working life and did so with the promise that they would at least have certain benefits like health care premiums and full medical coverage extended to them for their loyal service to the taxpayers of Hawaii. The State Retirees in order to receive the promised retirement medical care must accept Medicare as the Primary coverage, they have no option to decline this coverage if they can not afford it. Most of the State Retirees are not fortunate to have the personal income and resources as our new Governor who apparently does not need the Medicare reimbursement. I urge the members of this committee to not let the new administration kick our State of Hawaii Retirees to the curb in order to reduce the deficit. The damage to the lives of our retirees will be immeasurable.

Sincerely,



Carson E. Wilberts Jr.

# LATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 13, 2011 9:24 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** kauaiboy4200@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1268 on 2/14/2011 9:15:00 AM  
**Attachments:** OPPOSE SB 1268.wps

Testimony for JDL 2/14/2011 9:15:00 AM SB1268

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Joseph A. Savino  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [kauaiboy4200@aol.com](mailto:kauaiboy4200@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2011

Comments: