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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY AND LABOR

RE: SB 2753 RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH
BENEFITS TRUST FUND

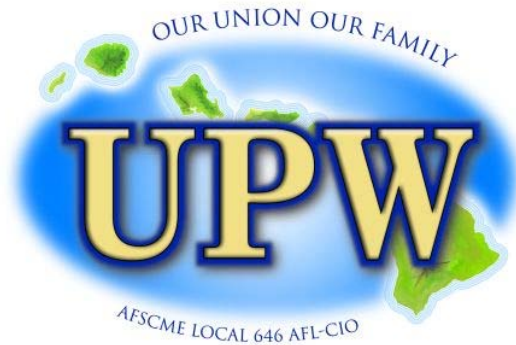
WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports SB 2753 which allows the board of the EUTF to create a trust fund for the purpose of receiving employer contributions that will pre-fund post-employment health and other benefit costs for retirees and their beneficiaries.

Any additional financial support which can be provided to post employment benefits costs will help maintain and attract more teachers to the profession. Retirement benefits have been hard hit in this economy and any additional benefit will be welcomed by our members and others considering this profession. Health costs continue to rise and future financial indicators show they will not stop. We hope this fund will create a safety net for the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



THE HAWAII STATE SENATE
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2012

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
The Honorable Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Sen. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, February 8, 2012
TIME OF HEARING: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE OF HEARING: Conference Room 016

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2753 RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION
HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND**

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,
State Director of the United Public Workers,
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW")

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW is the exclusive representative for approximately 11,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

The UPW supports SB 2753 that authorizes the board of the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund to create a trust for the purpose of receiving employer contributions that will prefund post-employment health and other benefit costs for retirees and their beneficiaries. Establishing the fund helps the trust meet the requirements of the Government Accounting Standards Board with post-employment benefits.

Accordingly, the UPW is in support of SB 2753.

Thank you for opportunity to testify on this measure.