



HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

State of Hawaii • Bishop Square, 1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

BILL NO: H.B. 697, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS

TO: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Honorable Members
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol, Room 407
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, Room 208
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

FROM: Hawaii State Ethics Commission

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, March 27, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

ROOM: Conference Room 211

The Hawaii State Ethics Commission (Commission) requests the Committee's support of H.B. 697, which is to appropriate additional funds to the legislative service agencies, including the Commission, to fund Hawaii employer-union health benefits trust fund costs and other cost adjustments authorized by chapter 89C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for legislative officers and employees excluded from collective bargaining.

The Commission's approved budget for FY 2013-2014, which was part of H.B. 26, H.D. 1 (now Act 1), does not include any amount to fund the costs associated with Hawaii employer-union health benefits trust fund costs and other cost adjustments that the Legislature may deem appropriate. It is critical that the Legislature appropriate additional funds for the Commission should the employees of the Executive departments be entitled to adjustments in benefits and pay. Without the additional appropriation, the Commission may be unable to provide its employees with similar adjustments.

Thank you for considering the Commission's testimony on H.B. 697.

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR
465 S. King Street, Room 500
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JAN K. YAMANE
Acting State Auditor

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**TESTIMONY OF JAN K. YAMANE, ACTING STATE AUDITOR,
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 697, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC
EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS**

**Senate Committees on Ways and Means and
Judiciary and Labor
March 27, 2013**

Chair Ige, Chair Hee, and Members of the Committee:

I am Jan Yamane, Acting State Auditor. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 697, making appropriations for public employment cost items. The purpose of this bill is to fund Hawai'i employer-union health benefits trust fund and other cost adjustments authorized by chapter 89C, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, for legislative officers and employees excluded from collective bargaining, including staff in my office. We encourage passage of this bill unamended. I am available for questions should you have any.

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi
Acting Director

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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 446
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Written Comments

HB697

MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS

Comments by the Legislative Reference Bureau
Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Acting Director

Presented to the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Labor and Ways and Means

Wednesday, March 27, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211

Chairs Hee and Ige and Members of the Committees:

Good afternoon Chair Hee and Ige and members of the Committees, my name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi and I am the Acting Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written comments on H.B. No. 697, Making Appropriations for Public Employment Cost Items.

The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds for the public employment cost items of and cost adjustments for employees of legislative service agencies.

The Bureau supports the measure's continued progress through the legislative process so that a viable legislative vehicle will remain available in the event that a collective bargaining agreement between public employers and the exclusive representative of a collective bargaining unit that legislative service agencies tie compensation and benefits to is ratified.

As you know, the compensation and benefits of legislative service agency staff generally track those of certain collective bargaining units with similarly situated members. If these collective bargaining units receive a raise or augmented benefits, the legislative service agencies normally track these raises and benefits. Additional funds for compensation and benefits increases were not included in any of the legislative service agencies' budget appropriations for fiscal year 2013-2014 since, at the time the legislative budget was passed, it was unknown if a collective bargaining agreement will be ratified and what contract adjustments would be contained in such an agreement.

We would also like to note that, since this bill has not been amended since its introduction, an amendment to the measure would need to be made in order to keep it from being transmitted directly to the Governor, if passed on Third Reading by the Senate.

The Bureau supports the Committees' favorable consideration of the measure.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide written comments.



Robin K. Matsunaga
Ombudsman

Mark G.S. Au
First Assistant

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TESTIMONY OF ROBIN K. MATSUNAGA, OMBUDSMAN,
ON H.B. NO. 697, A BILL FOR AN ACT
MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

MARCH 27, 2013

Chair Hee, Chair Ige, and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of H.B. No. 697.

The purpose of this bill is to provide the funds necessary to cover cost items and cost adjustments for employees of the legislative agencies. Your favorable consideration of this bill will allow it to continue to be available as a vehicle throughout this legislative session, should the Legislature later determine that such cost items and adjustments are warranted, and would be appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration.