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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**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

FEBRUARY 8, 2013

Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

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. If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them.

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

**House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
February 8, 2013**

Chair Nakashima 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.



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 Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
The Honorable Members
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
State Capitol, Room 326
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

FROM: Hawaii State Ethics Commission

DATE: Friday, February 8, 2013

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

ROOM: Conference Room 309

The Hawaii State Ethics 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 requested budget for FY 2013-2014, which is part of H.B. 26, H.D. 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.

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi
Acting Director

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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 House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Friday, February 8, 2013, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 309

Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon Chair Nakashima and members of the Committee, 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 have not been included in the Bureau's budget appropriation for fiscal year 2013-2014 since, at this time, it is unknown if a collective bargaining agreement will be ratified and what contract adjustments would be contained in such an agreement.

For these reasons, the Bureau supports the Committee's favorable consideration of the measure.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide written comments.