

HB2262

HD2

LATE

TESTIMONY

**TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2262, H.D. 2**

March 25, 2014

RELATING TO REPORTING DEATHS TO STATE AGENCIES

House Bill No. 2262, H.D. 2, authorizes the Department of Health (DOH) to disclose lists of names of persons whose deaths have been recorded by the DOH, to state agencies that maintain official lists of persons and are prohibited by federal law from sharing information from the lists.

The Department strongly supports this bill because it will have a direct benefit to the Hawaii Employer Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) and other State agencies in their death validation and data cleansing efforts. The need for accurate death validation is necessary in order to ensure that the enrollee and dependent beneficiary data for the EUTF and other affected agencies reflects updated and timely information to prevent the overpayment of benefits. The EUTF reports that the lack of up to date information that could be provided by the DOH results in payouts to deceased retirees and spouses of at least an estimated one-quarter of a million dollars annually for Medicare Part B reimbursements. This does not include other instances where the payment of retiree health premiums may also continue for months or years for deceased retirees and spouses.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on this important measure.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
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TESTIMONY BY SANDRA YAHIRO
ADMINISTRATOR, HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2262, H.D.2

March 25, 2014, 10:00 a.m.

RELATING TO REPORTING DEATHS TO STATE AGENCIES

Chairperson Hee and Members of the Committee,

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Department of Health (DOH) to disclose lists of names of persons whose deaths have been recorded by DOH, to state agencies that maintain official lists of persons and are prohibited by federal law from sharing information from the lists.

The Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) Board of Trustees strongly supports this Administration bill that will allow the EUTF to receive death information so that EUTF can terminate Medicare Part B reimbursements to deceased retirees and deceased retirees' spouses in a timely manner.

For your information, the EUTF reimburses Medicare retirees and their Medicare spouses for their Medicare Part B premiums. Currently, the standard monthly Part B premium is \$104.90 per month. Since EUTF currently is unable to secure death information on a timely basis, it is estimated that we pay over one-quarter million dollars

per year to deceased retirees and spouses. Oftentimes, EUTF does not find out about deaths until months, and sometimes years, after the death. This bill will allow us to receive death information regularly from the Department of Health in a timely fashion, and, as such, stop Medicare Part B reimbursements to deceased retirees or spouses saving the State thousands of dollars each year.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.