

HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS
C O R P O R A T I O N

"Quality Healthcare For All"

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair

April 02, 2015
Conference Room 211
9:00 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol

**Testimony Supporting House Bill 676, HD1, SD1
Relating To Collective Bargaining.
Requires agreements for collective bargaining unit (9) to provide 3 votes for the
Governor, 2 for HHSC, and 1 for the Chief Justice.**

Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.
Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **support of HB 676, HD1, SD1**, that requires agreements for collective bargaining unit (9) to provide 3 votes for the governor, 2 for HHSC, and 1 vote for the chief justice.

Bargaining unit 09 is comprised almost entirely of nurses from the HHSC facilities statewide. Being lumped together with the other bargaining units stifles their ability to focus on critical issues unique to their working environment. As such, these HHSC nurses need more equitable representation, and a stronger voice at the negotiating table.

Equally, HHSC also needs a stronger voice during negotiations. While we have the vast majority of BU-09 nurses, HHSC currently has only one out of twelve votes necessary to approve a proposal for pay increases. Negotiated pay raises were approved on HHSC's behalf without regard to our ability to fund them. To further complicate matters, HHSC's past efforts to have these raises paid for out of the General Fund have been unsuccessful. Hence, the pay raises were mandated to be paid out from the Special Fund – a fund with a \$48 million shortfall.

If the State is unable to pay from the General Fund, HHSC must have the ability to negotiate collective bargaining packages that we can afford to pay. Passage of this bill would allow HHSC to have a stronger voice in negotiations. It would allow us better control over the terms and conditions of our collective-bargaining agreements. It would also allow HHSC to work more collaboratively with the HGEA in the negotiating process.

The overall working relationship between HHSC and our nurses would be strengthened as would our ability to focus on key issues affecting the cost of doing business in our fast-paced and fiscally challenging environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee. We respectfully recommend the Committee's support of this measure.

wam3 - Nicolas

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 11:29 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: ecabatu@hhsc.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB676 on Apr 2, 2015 09:00AM*

HB676

Submitted on: 3/31/2015

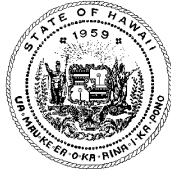
Testimony for WAM on Apr 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elena Cabatu	East Hawaii Region of Support Hawaii Health Systems Corporation		No

Comments:

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April 1, 2015

**TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

For Hearing on Thursday, April 2, 2015
9:00 a.m., Conference Room 211

By

JAMES K. NISHIMOTO
OFFICE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, CHIEF NEGOTIATOR

**House Bill No. 676 H.D. 1, S.D. 1
Relating to Collective Bargaining**

(WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY)

CHAIRPERSON JILL N. TOKUDA, VICE CHAIR KOUCHI AND MEMBERS OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. No. 676 H.D.1, S.D.1.

The purpose of H.B. No. 676 H.D.1, S.D.1 is to require for collective bargaining for unit (9), three votes for the governor, two votes for the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC), and one vote for the Chief Justice.

The Office of Collective Bargaining (OCB) **has concerns** regarding H.B. No. 676 H.D.1, S.D. 1.

With respect to bargaining unit (9), this measure would eliminate the vote of the mayors of the counties. While counties do not currently have any employees in the bargaining unit (9), should they re-establish positions in the future to be included in bargaining unit (9), elimination of the mayor's vote would deny the county the right to

vote on the provisions of their employees' collective bargaining agreement. The governor, HHSC and the chief justice are already recognized as employers with voting status.

Based on the foregoing, OCB respectfully suggests that the existing voting structures for bargaining unit (9) be retained.