

SB553

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 6, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Hawaii Women's Coalition	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair, The Hawaii Women's Coalition is is strong support of this measure. We have sponsored some version of this bill for the past decade. We strongly believe that Hawaii's regressive tax system hurts women particularly as we still earn 80 cents on the dollar compared to men. We are too often sole caregivers, single parents and/or the breadwinner in struggling families. Please - do the right thing for Hawaii's wahine and our ohana. Ann S. Freed Co-Chair, Hawaii Women's Coalition annsfreed@gmail.com, 808-623-5676

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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair

Friday, February 06, 2015

SB 553, RELATING TO INCOME TAX

Testifying in Support

Good afternoon, Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee,

The Democratic Party of Hawaii **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** this bill.

SB 553 would exempt from state income tax residents who earn less than 125% of the federal poverty guidelines.

The platform of the Democratic Party of Hawaii unequivocally states:

"We re-affirm our commitment to a progressive tax structure and will work to re-establish a system based upon 'ability to pay'."

As shown in the recent report from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, titled, "Who Pays?," Hawaii's state and local taxes fall most heavily on low and middle income earners, with high income earners paying the smallest proportion of their income in local taxes. We support legislation like SB 553 as a means for re-balancing the tax structure and a step towards increased tax justice.

Therefore, the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party has established support for bills like SB 552 as a top-tier priority for the 2015 legislative session.

We strongly urge your support for this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

The Legislation Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

ATTACHED is a chart from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy which graphically illustrates the regressive structure of Hawaii current tax code. We believe SB 552 would help correct this situation and commend this chart to you.

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Carl	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Kenny Wusstig	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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