

HB-1195

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 2:56:52 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/7/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support.

HB-1195

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:13:36 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/7/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Santiago	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Make sure to include in the bill a preface reminding federal workers that a good citizen doesn't "hoard" (save) money for life's emergencies but instead counts on the government to be responsible for them.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



RODERICK K. BECKER
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY RODERICK K. BECKER
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1195

February 7, 2019
9:30 a.m.
Room 309

RELATING TO FEDERAL WORKERS

House Bill (H.B.) No. 1195 establishes the Federal Furlough Loan Program within the Department of Budget and Finance to provide interest-free loans to furloughed or excepted federal workers to help them cover rent or mortgage payments during the federal government shutdown and provides an undetermined amount of general funds in FY 19 to fund the loans.

The department appreciates the intent of the measure but believes there is a better method of providing financial relief to federal workers impacted by the federal government shutdown than creating a new State-operated loan program. Prior to the temporary reopening of the federal government, the Office of the Governor was working to establish a contingency loan program in partnership with local financial institutions to provide emergency loans to the affected federal workers. Unlike the department, these entities already have the staff, infrastructure, and expertise to evaluate applications and disburse small loans to qualified individuals.

While this contingency loan program was placed on hold after the passing of the latest continuing resolution, the program can be set in motion again should Congress and the President be unable to come up with a long-term funding bill.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.