



## HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

State of Hawaii · Bishop Square, 1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970 · Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Committee: Committee on Finance  
Bill Number: H.B. 348  
Hearing Date/Time: February 6, 2019, 2:00 p.m.  
Re: Testimony of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission in **SUPPORT** of  
H.B. 348, Making Appropriations for Public Employment Cost Items

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i State Ethics Commission ("Commission") supports H.B. 348, which appropriates funds to the Commission for personnel expenses for the fiscal biennium 2019-2021.

H.B.1 (the appropriations bill for the legislative branch) does not provide funds for any increase for Commission staff salaries in the next fiscal year. As such, H.B. 348 would allow the Commission to provide cost of living adjustments to its 11 staff (including the Executive Director, whose salary will be set by the Salary Commission) like those provided to executive branch employees.

The Commission has submitted detailed budget information in its testimony in support of H.B. 1. Should this Committee wish to review detailed information about the Commission's budget and operations, that testimony is available here: [https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Session2019/Testimony/HB1\\_TESTIMONY\\_FIN\\_01-23-19\\_.PDF](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Session2019/Testimony/HB1_TESTIMONY_FIN_01-23-19_.PDF) (beginning on page 12).

The Commission appreciates the Legislature's continuing support of the Commission's work to ensure that public officers and employees exhibit the highest standards of ethical conduct as mandated by Article XIV of Hawaii's Constitution.

Thank you for your continuing support of the Commission's work.

Very truly yours,

Daniel Gluck  
Executive Director and General Counsel



Robin K. Matsunaga  
Ombudsman

Melissa Chee  
First Assistant

**OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN  
STATE OF HAWAII**

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**TESTIMONY OF ROBIN K. MATSUNAGA, OMBUDSMAN,  
ON H.B. NO. 348, A BILL FOR AN ACT  
MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

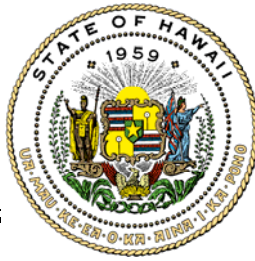
**FEBRUARY 6, 2019**

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of H.B. No. 348.

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.



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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

**H.B. NO. 348, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST  
ITEMS**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

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The Office of the Auditor supports the intent of H.B. No. 348, which appropriates funds to certain legislative agencies, including the Office of the Auditor, to fund Hawai'i employer-union health benefits trust fund costs and other cost adjustments authorized by chapter 89C, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, for legislative officers and employees excluded from collective bargaining.

We strongly support the continued progress of this bill so that the option to make cost adjustments will continue to be available, should the Legislature determine that such costs items and adjustments are warranted.

Thank you for considering our testimony related to H.B. No. 348.

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi  
Director

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## Written Comments

### **HB348**

### **MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS**

Testimony by the Legislative Reference Bureau  
Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Director

Presented to the House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 308

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon Chair Luke and members of the Committee, my name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi and I am the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written comments in support of H.B. No. 348, 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 the legislative service agencies, the Senate, and the House of Representatives.

As you know, the staff of the Legislature and the legislative service agencies are excluded from collective bargaining. The Bureau strongly supports the measure's continued progress through the legislative process so that a viable legislative vehicle will remain available should the Legislature later determine that such cost items and adjustments are warranted.

Thank you again for your consideration.