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STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
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TESTIMONY BY DEREK MIZUNO
ADMINISTRATOR, HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE OF LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2493

February 4, 2020
2:45 p.m.
Room 224

RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) Board of Trustees has not been able to take a position on this bill. Their next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2020. EUTF staff would like to provide information and comments.

The intent of this bill is to provide continued health benefit coverage to the surviving children with mental or physical incapacity when the retiree and the retiree's spouse is no longer living and/or eligible. It provides healthcare for the children or retirees who dedicated their lives to public service. However, with any benefit enhancement comes additional costs to the employers. Currently, there are 403 such dependents on EUTF health plans. The estimated annual premiums for one such dependent are \$6,312. The EUTF is currently working on an estimate of the additional annual costs should this bill become law.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

EUTF's Mission: We care for the health and well being of our beneficiaries by striving to provide quality benefit plans that are affordable, reliable, and meet their changing needs. We provide informed service that is excellent, courteous, and compassionate.

SB-2493

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 12:27:05 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/4/2020 2:45:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| debra allen | Individual | Support | Yes |

Comments:

As a new resident and business owner in The State of Hawaii, my first purchase was a home on the North Shore of Oahu and my second purchase was a Tesla. I left my gas engined vehicles in Arizona. I care about the environment and the process of turning my home to solar energy and using electric energy to power my vehicle. Approval of this bill will allow others in Hawaii to also encourage others to switch to do the same via rebates and will allow me to increase my fleet of electric cars as my business grows. The approval does not cost come from any state funds and will only be a tax on the purchase of gas guzzlers. Please pass SB2493 and continue to improve the land we love.

taniguchi4 - Joel

From: LCATestimony
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 3:56 PM
To: taniguchi4 - Joel
Subject: FW: Committee: LCA Hearing : 2/04/2020 2:45 p.m. Measure number 2493

From: Sandra Isokane <sandra.isokane@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 2:07 PM
To: LCATestimony <LCATestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: Committee: LCA Hearing : 2/04/2020 2:45 p.m. Measure number 2493

I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2493, amending EUTF Employee beneficiary status.

I retired in December of 2018 after dedicating 37 years of service and hard work with the C&C of Honolulu as a fingerprint examiner with the Honolulu Police Dept. Prior to that I worked 8 years with a private firm but upon persuasion from my aunt to get a government job for future benefits I did, fortunately. My husband just retired this past December (2019) from a private company. After 45 years of employment with the company he lost his medical benefits upon retirement, as they don't provide such continued benefits.

While preparing my retirement forms at the EUTF I was shocked to learn that upon the death of both parents my disabled adult son would lose his benefits too. I was informed that "there are no survivor benefits for a disabled adult child". The very ones who will need health coverage without both parents. Yet a disabled adult child is eligible for medical benefits if a parent is killed in the line of duty.

I have an unmarried disabled adult son afflicted with a severe form of a neurological movement disorder (Tourette syndrome) that causes loud vocal sounds and involuntary bodily movements. Losing medical coverage may most likely mean losing his group of current physicians familiar with his medical history. Cost of insurance premium, co-pays of medical bills and prescription drugs would deplete his limited living expenses.

I would appreciate your support on Bill 2493 to include eligibility for disabled adult children. As a parent I would like to have peace of mind that my disabled son would be taken care of when we're gone, especially medical needs, and not become an addition to the homeless community. After all, I put 37 years of hard work into public service so that I could take care of family at the end.

Sincerely, Sandra Isokane