

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN M.D.
LT. GOVERNOR



ISAAC W. CHOY
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair;
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Isaac W. Choy, Director
Department of Taxation

Date: March 4, 2021
Time: 10:00 A.M.
Place: Via Videoconference, Hawaii State Capitol

Re: S.B. 614, S.D. 1, Relating to Taxation

The Department of Taxation (Department) offers the following comments regarding S.B. 614, S.D. 1, for your consideration.

S.B. 614, S.D. 1, would exempt from state income tax any unemployment compensation or Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) compensation received by an individual between March 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020. The measure also directs the Department to allow individuals who had state income tax deducted and withheld from their unemployment compensation during that same period to credit that withholding against their overall state tax liability. The measure has a defective effective date of July 1, 2050.

The Department is able to administer the bill as written, but notes that because the 2020 calendar tax year has already closed, taxpayers who have had state income tax deducted and withheld from their unemployment compensation must file a return in order credit any exempted amounts toward their tax liability. Likewise, taxpayers who may have already filed their returns before this measure takes effect would be subsequently required to file an amended return to establish their entitlement to any credit amount.

Finally, the Department notes that it estimates the general fund impact if the measure was to become law with a functional effective date is a loss of \$190.8 million for FY21.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
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 CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 614, S.D. 1

March 4, 2021
10:00 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference

RELATING TO TAXATION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 614, S.D. 1.

S.B. No. 614, S.D. 1, retroactively exempts from the State income tax any income received for unemployment insurance (UI) benefits under Chapter 383, HRS, and for pandemic unemployment assistance (PUA) pursuant to the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act during the period of March 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020. This bill also requires the Department of Taxation (TAX) to allow taxpayers to credit the State income tax that was deducted or withheld from their UI and PUA amounts received during the period of March 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020, against their overall State tax liability.

According to TAX, this measure is expected to decrease general fund revenues by \$190,800,000 in FY 21. B&F would like to note that such a significant decrease is not accounted for in the Governor's general fund financial plan and could adversely affect funding priorities moving forward.

B&F would also like to note that UI and PUA recipients were informed in advance that the amounts received would be subject to the State income tax and were offered the option to withhold or not withhold their State income tax amounts.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



United Food & Commercial Workers Union, Local 480
808 Factory Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Phone: 808 942.7778

Patrick K. Loo
President

Gwen K. Rulona
Secretary Treasurer

March 2, 2021

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Senate
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii

RE: SB 614 SD 1 - SUPPORT
Department of Taxation; State Income Tax Exemption; Unemployment Benefits;
Retroactive Application

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran and Members of the Committee,

United Food & Commercial Workers Union 480 **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** SB 614 SD 1. The COVID-19 pandemic has really brought to the forefront this overdue need to address this tax issue. Unemployment Insurance provides a slight cushion, it simply was and is not enough. By ensuring that UI payments due to the pandemic, are not subject to taxes, we would be providing even more support to our Hawai'i population.

As it is, lives and livelihoods have been lost; but even in the midst of this, hope is alive and there are means to bring our community back to a place of thriving therefore, we implore you to partner with us for the sake of Hawai'i and it's people by passing SB 614 SD 1.

Much Mahalo!

Fraternally,

Patrick K. Loo
President



INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION

LOCAL OFFICE • 451 ATKINSON DRIVE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814 • PHONE 949-4161

HAWAII DIVISION: 100 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720 • OAHU DIVISION: 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
MAUI COUNTY DIVISION: 896 Lower Main Street, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 • KAUAI DIVISION: 4154 Hardy Street, Lihue, Hawaii 96766
HAWAII LONGSHORE DIVISION: 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

LOCAL 142

The Thirty-First Legislature
Regular Session of 2021

THE SENATE

Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Thursday, March 4, 2021; 10:00 a.m.

STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 614, S.D.1 RELATING TO TAXATION

Mahalo Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee for scheduling S.B. 614, S.D.1 which will help hundreds of thousands of workers across the state.

The ILWU Local 142 **strongly supports** S.B. 614, S.D.1, which retroactively exempts from state income tax, unemployment compensation and pandemic unemployment assistance (PUA) received from March 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020 and requires the department of taxation to allow taxpayers to credit the state income tax deducted and withheld from their unemployment compensation and PUA during that time period against their overall state tax liability.

As you know, hundreds of thousands of workers in Hawaii lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 pandemic and most of them are struggling to make ends meet. In fact, more than 580,500 UI claims were filed in 2020 showing just how bad the economy has been for workers throughout Hawaii. This translates to over half of the working population - a staggering and sobering amount.

Most workers have lost their health insurance, many are on the verge of eviction and many are struggling to provide for their families. Providing a one-time unemployment insurance (UI) tax relief will help hundreds of thousands of workers across Hawaii who have been negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and will help keep them in their homes. It will give them extra money to provide food for their families and could potentially help many small businesses across the state by putting more money in the pockets of workers who desperately need assistance. Asking workers to pay upwards of \$2,000 in UI income tax while seeing their wages and benefits reduced substantially is not the right thing to do. Our economy is still struggling, and workers need as much help as possible.

In addition, there are states across the country such as California, Oregon, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia that have permanently exempted their state income tax from unemployment insurance because they recognize workers collecting UI are already struggling

and need as much assistance as possible – especially during a pandemic and economic crisis. Other states such as Maryland, Delaware and Arkansas have temporarily exempted their income tax on UI benefits because simply put – workers are struggling.

Finally, Congress also recognizes the struggles workers across the country are experiencing and as a result have introduced a similar measure that would exempt the federal income tax on UI payments received.

This is an unprecedented time and one of these worst economic periods in American history. Workers and their families need relief, and this bill will help provide much needed financial relief for working families.

We strongly recommend passage of S.B. 614, S.D.1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

IATSE LOCAL 665

FILM, TELEVISION, STAGE, PROJECTION AND TRADESHOWS

Since 1937

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES, MOVING PICTURE TECHNICIANS, ARTISTS AND ALLIED CRAFTS
OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS TERRITORIES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO, CLC

The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Hawai'i State Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by
IATSE Local 665
March 2nd, 2021

S.B. 614 S.D. 1 - RELATING TO TAXATION

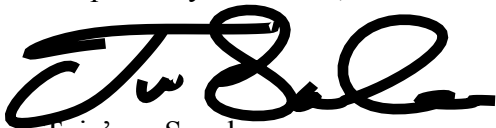
Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee,

My name is Tuia'ana Scanlan, President of IATSE Local 665. We represent Entertainment Technicians in Stagecraft, Tradeshow & Conventions, and Film/TV industries across the State of Hawaii. We **strongly support** S.B. 614 S.D. 1.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Entertainment Technicians experienced nearly 100% unemployment until mid-September 2020. We have only just recently been able to rebuild some of the work momentum lost in the Film/TV industry as a result of the pandemic, but not without significant diligence in adhering to COVID safety protocols. Our Stagecraft/Live Events sector has not resumed in any significant fashion. It is a misnomer to say that people are merely "not working". The working people of Hawaii have been prevented from returning to the careers that they have trained their entire lives for in order to combat a public health crisis. Unemployment Insurance (and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance) is a fraction of what these working families once generated in earnings. In homes across the State of Hawaii, hard choices are being made between Rent/Mortgage, Utility bills, Healthcare, and Food. Local working families are already struggling financially. Local working families in Hawaii need the support that S.B. 614 S.D. 1 provides. Without it, these local working families that have barely kept their heads above water through the storm of COVID-19 may go under entirely.

We appreciate your consideration of our testimony and strongly encourage the passage of S.B. 614 S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,



Tuia'ana Scanlan
President, IATSE Local 665
he/him/his

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: INCOME, Retroactive exemption for unemployment compensation

BILL NUMBER: SB 614, SD1

INTRODUCED BY: Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Retroactively exempts from state income tax, unemployment compensation and pandemic unemployment assistance (PUA) received from March 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020. Requires the department of taxation to allow taxpayers to credit the state income tax deducted and withheld from their unemployment compensation and PUA during that time period against their overall state tax liability.

SYNOPSIS: In a section not to be codified in the HRS, provides that notwithstanding sections 235-69 and 383-163.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to the contrary, unemployment compensation under chapter 383, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and pandemic unemployment assistance (PUA) pursuant to the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act during the period of March 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020, shall be exempt from state income tax. Requires the department of taxation to allow individuals to credit the state income tax that was deducted and withheld from their unemployment compensation or PUA during the period of March 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020, against their overall state tax liability.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/2050.

STAFF COMMENTS: The stated purpose of the bill is to alleviate the financial strain on many struggling households in Hawaii by exempting unemployment insurance benefits received during the period of March 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020, from state income tax. There does appear to be justification for a relief measure. Whether we can afford it is another story; the LCA Committee Report states that the current version of the bill will have an estimated revenue cost of \$191 million.

Digested 3/2/2021

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 7:03:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mariann Tesauro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Hawai'i State Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by
Mariann Tesauro
3-2-21

S.B. 614 S.D. 1 - RELATING TO TAXATION

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee,

My name is **Mariann Tesauro**. I am a member of IATSE Local 665. Local 665 represents Entertainment Technicians in Stagecraft, Tradeshow & Conventions, and Film/TV industries across the State of Hawaii. **I strongly support S.B. 614 S.D. 1.**

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Entertainment Technicians experienced nearly 100% unemployment until mid-September 2020. We have only just recently been able to rebuild some of the work momentum lost in the Film/TV industry as a result of the pandemic, but not without significant diligence in adhering to COVID safety protocols. Our Stagecraft/Live Events sector has not resumed in any significant fashion. It is a misnomer to say that people are merely "not working". The working people of Hawaii have been prevented from returning to the careers that they have trained their entire lives for in order to combat a public health crisis. Unemployment Insurance (and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance) is a fraction of what these working families once generated in earnings. In homes across the State of Hawaii, hard choices are being made between Rent/Mortgage, Utility bills, Healthcare, and Food. Local working families are already struggling financially. Local working families in Hawaii need the support that S.B. 614 S.D. 1 provides. Without it, these local working families that have barely kept their heads above water through the storm of COVID-19 may go under entirely.

I appreciate your consideration of my testimony and strongly encourage the passage of

S.B. 614 S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Mariann Tesauro

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 7:07:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kahea bento	Testifying for iatse local 665	Support	No

Comments:

The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Hawai'i State Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by
Kahea W Bento
03/02/2021

S.B. 614 S.D. 1 - RELATING TO TAXATION

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee,

My name is Kahea W Bento I am a member of IATSE Local 665. Local 665 represents Entertainment Technicians in Stagecraft, Tradeshow & Conventions, and Film/TV industries across the State of Hawaii. **I strongly support S.B. 614 S.D. 1.**

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Entertainment Technicians experienced nearly 100% unemployment until mid-September 2020. We have only just recently been able to rebuild some of the work momentum lost in the Film/TV industry as a result of the pandemic, but not without significant diligence in adhering to COVID safety protocols. Our Stagecraft/Live Events sector has not resumed in any significant fashion. It is a misnomer to say that people are merely "not working". The working people of Hawaii have been prevented from returning to the careers that they have trained their entire lives for in order to combat a public health crisis. Unemployment Insurance (and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance) is a fraction of what these working families once generated in earnings. In homes across the State of Hawaii, hard choices are being made between Rent/Mortgage, Utility bills, Healthcare, and Food. Local working families are already struggling financially. Local working families in Hawaii need the support that S.B. 614 S.D. 1 provides. Without it, these local working families that have barely kept their heads above water through the storm of COVID-19 may go under entirely.

I appreciate your consideration of my testimony and strongly encourage the passage of S.B. 614 S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Kahea W Bento

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 9:58:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keahi Kuikahi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Keahi S Kuikahi

03/02/2021

S.B. 614 S.D. 1 - RELATING TO TAXATION

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee,

My name is Keahi S Kuikahi. I am a member of IATSE Local 665. Local 665 represents Entertainment Technicians in Stagecraft, Tradeshow & Conventions, and Film/TV industries across the State of Hawaii. I strongly support S.B. 614 S.D. 1.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Entertainment Technicians experienced nearly 100% unemployment until mid-September 2020. We have only just recently been able to rebuild some of the work momentum lost in the Film/TV industry as a result of the pandemic, but not without significant diligence in adhering to COVID safety protocols. Our Stagecraft/Live Events sector has not resumed in any significant fashion. It is a misnomer to say that people are merely “not working”. The working people of Hawaii have been prevented from returning to the careers that they have trained their entire lives for in order to combat a public health crisis. Unemployment Insurance (and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance) is a fraction of what these working families once generated in earnings. In homes across the State of Hawaii, hard choices are being made between Rent/Mortgage, Utility bills, Healthcare, and Food. Local working families are already struggling financially. Local working families in Hawaii need the support that S.B. 614 S.D. 1 provides. Without it, these local working families that have barely kept their heads above water through the storm of COVID-19 may go under entirely.

I appreciate your consideration of my testimony and strongly encourage the passage of S.B. 614 S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Keahi S Kuikahi

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 8:44:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Moquin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee,

My name is Mark Moquin. I am a member of IATSE Local 665. Local 665 represents Entertainment Technicians in Stagecraft, Tradeshow & Conventions, and Film/TV industries across the State of Hawaii. **I strongly support S.B. 614 S.D. 1.**

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Entertainment Technicians experienced nearly 100% unemployment until mid-September 2020. We have only just recently been able to rebuild some of the work momentum lost in the Film/TV industry as a result of the pandemic, but not without significant diligence in adhering to COVID safety protocols. Our Stagecraft/Live Events sector has not resumed in any significant fashion. It is a misnomer to say that people are merely “not working”. The working people of Hawaii have been prevented from returning to the careers that they have trained their entire lives for in order to combat a public health crisis. Unemployment Insurance (and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance) is a fraction of what these working families once generated in earnings. In homes across the State of Hawaii, hard choices are being made between Rent/Mortgage, Utility bills, Healthcare, and Food. Local working families are already struggling financially. Local working families in Hawaii need the support that S.B. 614 S.D. 1 provides. Without it, these local working families that have barely kept their heads above water through the storm of COVID-19 may go under entirely.

I appreciate your consideration of my testimony and strongly encourage the passage of S.B. 614 S.D. 1.

Mahalo,

Mark Moquin, Maui

IRON WORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

March 4, 2021

Senate Committee
Ways and Means

LATE

Re: SB614 – Relating to Taxation

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee,

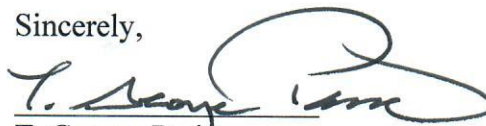
We **SUPPORT** SB614. We ask that you consider such worker relief legislation this session given the unprecedented crisis that working families are continuing to face in our country and across our islands. President Joe Biden has clarified for us the cascade of crises that our society faces today: the virus, climate change, growing inequality, racism, America's global standing, and an attack on truth and democracy.

Here at home, the pandemic has resulted in over 580,000 workers filing unemployment claims last year. We in Hawai'i also face the distinct crisis of a looming homelessness tsunami. The moratoriums on evictions promulgated by the President and Governor are only stop-gap emergency measures that address public health and safety. Those measures do not address the underlying growing fiscal debt owed by renters and mortgagees to landlords and lenders. The Federal relief provided through CARES and subsequent legislation is greatly appreciated but does not keep pace with the growing debt. Many of our 'ohana have not been able to work and are now faced with upwards of a ten months' worth of back mortgage or rent payments that could be in the tens of thousands of dollars per family.

Too many of our 'ohana and friends have been laid off or have had hours reduced. Thousands of working families are on the verge of financial collapse, having spent their savings, lost their private health insurance, and having dim prospects of returning to work soon or earning enough to survive. Our local families are faced with difficult to impossible financial choices, deciding between food and rent or mortgage payments, and gas and car payments. Thousands of our 'ohana that were drowning under these cascades of crises have chosen to relocate their family out-of-state.

Providing a tax refund or relief on those that collecting Unemployment Insurance from March 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 could result in savings in the thousands of dollars for each struggling family. This worker relief legislation, taken together with others, will be a step in the right direction. We firmly stand in solidarity with our tens of thousands of local families that are currently suffering from layoffs, decreased work hours, and the thousands more that are facing possible government furloughs given the pandemic and budget shortfalls. We encourage you to consider worker relief legislation that will help our neighbors that are suffering during these unprecedented times and try to stem the rising tsunami of homeless on the horizon.

Sincerely,



T. George Paris
Managing Director

TGP: MP

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 12:36:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	Testifying for We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT SB614

www.WeAreOne.cc



HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM
ASSOCIATION

LATE

Testimony of
Mufi Hannemann
President & CEO
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

Committee on Ways & Means
Senate Bill 614, Senate Draft 1: Relating to Taxation

Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Committee, mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's largest private sector visitor industry organization.

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association—nearly 700 members strong, representing more than 50,000 hotel rooms and nearly 40,000 lodging workers — advocates on behalf of an industry that has been forced to furlough thousands of workers, many of whom remain out of work. These workers, like so many others around the state have relied upon State unemployment benefits to provide for themselves and their families. The unprecedented nature of the pandemic and its fallout has wreaked havoc on working class families' financial security, and the State should continue to do all that it can to alleviate this.

Senate Bill 614, as a legislative mechanism, would greatly help thousands of local residents who have had to weather the pandemic while on furlough or without a job by exempting the income tax on unemployment compensation from March 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020. There are many families in Hawai'i who live paycheck to paycheck and would struggle to maintain some of their basic necessities if they were subject to an income tax expense on their unemployment benefits. The Legislature has the ability to lessen some of this burden, and we urge passage of this bill to help our local families stay afloat.

As such, HLTA supports Senate Draft 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 2:36:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary Hooser	Testifying for Pono Hawaii Initiative	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this measure and ensure that unemployment benefits that were received during the pandemic are not taxed, and any taxes paid are refunded. NOTE: For many, there may be penalties and interest charged for late or nonpayment of taxes. At the very minimum, these charges should be waived.



Local 665
HAWAII'S TECHNICIANS
for
FILM, TELEVISION, STAGE AND PROJECTION
Since 1937

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES, MOVING PICTURE TECHNICIANS, ARTISTS AND ALLIED CRAFTS
OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS TERRITORIES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO, CLC

March 3, 2021

The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Hawai'i State Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Capitol,
415 South Beretania Street
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
Thursday, March 4, 2021, 10:00AM

LATE

STATEMENT IN STRONG SUPPORT OF S.B. 614 S.D. 1 - RELATING TO TAXATION

Mahalo Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee for allowing us to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT of S.B. 614 S.D. 1.**

IATSE Local 665 represents Entertainment Technicians in Stagecraft, Tradeshow, Conventions, Film and TV industries across the State of Hawaii. Our industry experienced nearly 100% unemployment last year.

Nearly all of our technicians were on Unemployment Insurance until September 2020 – some for the very first time in their careers. Although we are blessed to have our Film Technicians return to work due to strong COVID-19 safety measures, our Stagehands and Convention Technicians are still unemployed. They cannot return to work until it is safe for large crowds to gather.

In homes across the State of Hawaii, hard choices are being made between bills, food and healthcare. Working families were already struggling financially before the pandemic, and many of them are barely able to keep their heads above water now. Please pass S.B. 614 S.D. 1 as soon as possible to help local families through this devastating crisis.

Respectfully submitted,

Irish Barber
Business Representative

Testimony Regarding **SB 614** Relating to Taxation

I John Simpliciano Hotel worker and resident of Maui County is in support of Bill S614 because I have seen many of my fellow hotel workers that have been laid off since March of 2020 and continue to struggle financially because of the pandemic. They continue to seek Jobs available even when there is none, they continue to collect UI benefit, but many are still waiting for UI to overcome issues with payments payout.

Then there is that anticipated tax filing not knowing the amount of taxes that would have to be paid out. A culmination of very unfortunate circumstances that affect the lives of many people in Hawaii financially. Especially those that is in the tourism industry hoping that once again tourist will flock Hawaii as their main destination.

Until that time comes, we' re hoping that the legislature would consider giving relief to thousands of people that continues to rely on Unemployment benefit as a mean to survive this pandemic. This bill SB 614 have that ability to help those that struggle financially.

Mahalo,



John S Simpliciano

02/02/21

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 12:40:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erika K Aresta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Hawai'i State Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by
Erika K Aresta

03/02/2021

S.B. 614 S.D. 1 - RELATING TO TAXATION

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee,

My name is **Erika K Aresta**. I am a member of IATSE Local 665. Local 665 represents Entertainment Technicians in Stagecraft, Tradeshow & Conventions, and Film/TV industries across the State of Hawaii. **I strongly support S.B. 614 S.D. 1.**

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Entertainment Technicians experienced nearly 100% unemployment until mid-September 2020. We have only just recently been able to rebuild some of the work momentum lost in the Film/TV industry as a result of the pandemic, but not without significant diligence in adhering to COVID safety protocols. Our Stagecraft/Live Events sector has not resumed in any significant fashion. It is a misnomer to say that people are merely "not working". The working people of Hawaii have been prevented from returning to the careers that they have trained their entire lives for in order to combat a public health crisis. Unemployment Insurance (and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance) is a fraction of what these working families once generated in earnings. In homes across the State of Hawaii, hard choices are being made between Rent/Mortgage, Utility bills, Healthcare, and Food. Local working families are already struggling financially. Local working families in Hawaii need the support that S.B. 614 S.D. 1 provides. Without it, these local working families that have barely kept their heads above water through the storm of COVID-19 may go under entirely.

I appreciate your consideration of my testimony and strongly encourage the passage of S.B. 614 S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika K Aresta

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 12:49:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Hanks	Testifying for IATSE Local 665	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony by :
Jonathan P. Hanks

S.B. 614 S.D. 1 - RELATING TO TAXATION

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee,

My name is **Jonathan Hanks**. I am a member of IATSE Local 665. Local 665 represents Entertainment Technicians in Stagecraft, Tradeshow & Conventions, and Film/TV industries across the State of Hawaii. **I strongly support S.B. 614 S.D. 1.**

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Entertainment Technicians experienced nearly 100% unemployment until mid-September 2020. We have only just recently been able to rebuild some of the work momentum lost in the Film/TV industry as a result of the pandemic, but not without significant diligence in adhering to COVID safety protocols. Our Stagecraft/Live Events sector has not resumed in any significant fashion. It is a misnomer to say that people are merely “not working”. The working people of Hawaii have been prevented from returning to the careers that they have trained their entire lives for in order to combat a public health crisis. Unemployment Insurance (and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance) is a fraction of what these working families once generated in earnings. In homes across the State of Hawaii, hard choices are being made between Rent/Mortgage, Utility bills, Healthcare, and Food. Local working families are already struggling financially. Local working families in Hawaii need the support that S.B. 614 S.D. 1 provides. Without it, these local working families that have barely kept their heads above water through the storm of COVID-19 may go under entirely.

I appreciate your consideration of my testimony and strongly encourage the passage of S.B. 614 S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan P. Hanks

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 12:56:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arlene Hanks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony by : Arlene G. Hanks

S.B. 614 S.D. 1 - RELATING TO TAXATION

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee,

My name is **Arlene G. Hanks**, I strongly support **S.B. 614 S.D. 1**.

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 12:59:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David A Griffith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Hawai'i State Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by
David A Griffith
2 March 2021

S.B. 614 S.D. 1 - RELATING TO TAXATION

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee,

My name is David A Griffith. I am a member of IATSE Local 665. Local 665 represents Entertainment Technicians in Stagecraft, Tradeshow & Conventions, and Film/TV industries across the State of Hawaii. **I strongly support S.B. 614 S.D. 1.**

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Entertainment Technicians experienced nearly 100% unemployment until mid-September 2020. We have only just recently been able to rebuild some of the work momentum lost in the Film/TV industry as a result of the pandemic, but not without significant diligence in adhering to COVID safety protocols. Our Stagecraft/Live Events sector has not resumed in any significant fashion. It is a misnomer to say that people are merely "not working". The working people of Hawaii have been prevented from returning to the careers that they have trained their entire lives for in order to combat a public health crisis. Unemployment Insurance (and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance) is a fraction of what these working families once generated in earnings. In homes across the State of Hawaii, hard choices are being made between Rent/Mortgage, Utility bills, Healthcare, and Food. Local working families are already struggling financially. Local working families in Hawaii need the support that S.B. 614 S.D. 1 provides. Without it, these local working families that have barely kept their heads above water through the storm of COVID-19 may go under entirely.

I appreciate your consideration of my testimony and strongly encourage the passage of S.B. 614 S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

David A Griffith

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 1:07:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacob Holcomb	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Remember when we were told that it would take 2 weeks to flatten the curve? Here we are almost a year later in a destroyed economy, and now the working classes who could not "Zoom" their jobs are the ones who have to pick up the tab for these unconstitutional lockdowns even though the virus turned out to be far less dangerous than we were led to believe.

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 1:42:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debra Rego	Testifying for IATSE Local 665	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB614SD1

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 1:52:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauren Stoecker-Sylvia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Lauren Stoecker-Sylvia. I am a member of IATSE Local 665. Local 665 represents Entertainment Technicians in Stagecraft, Tradeshow & Conventions, and Film/TV industries across the State of Hawaii. **I strongly support S.B. 614 S.D. 1.**

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Entertainment Technicians experienced nearly 100% unemployment until mid-September 2020. We have only just recently been able to rebuild some of the work momentum lost in the Film/TV industry as a result of the pandemic, but not without significant diligence in adhering to COVID safety protocols. Our Stagecraft/Live Events sector has not resumed in any significant fashion. It is a misnomer to say that people are merely “not working”. The working people of Hawaii have been prevented from returning to the careers that they have trained their entire lives for in order to combat a public health crisis. Unemployment Insurance (and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance) is a fraction of what these working families once generated in earnings. In homes across the State of Hawaii, hard choices are being made between Rent/Mortgage, Utility bills, Healthcare, and Food. Local working families are already struggling financially. Local working families in Hawaii need the support that S.B. 614 S.D. 1 provides. Without it, these local working families that have barely kept their heads above water through the storm of COVID-19 may go under entirely.

I appreciate your consideration of my testimony and strongly encourage the passage of S.B. 614 S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Stoecker-Sylvia

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 2:46:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexandra Fernandes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony by
Alexandra Fernandes
March 2, 2012

S.B. 614 S.D. 1 - RELATING TO TAXATION

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee,

My name is Alexandra Fernandes. I am a member of IATSE Local 665. Local 665 represents Entertainment Technicians in Stagecraft, Tradeshow & Conventions, and Film/TV industries across the State of Hawaii. **I strongly support S.B. 614 S.D. 1.**

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Entertainment Technicians experienced nearly 100% unemployment until mid-September 2020. We have only just recently been able to rebuild some of the work momentum lost in the Film/TV industry as a result of the pandemic, but not without significant diligence in adhering to COVID safety protocols. Our Stagecraft/Live Events sector has not resumed in any significant fashion. It is a misnomer to say that people are merely “not working”. The working people of Hawaii have been prevented from returning to the careers that they have trained their entire lives for in order to combat a public health crisis. Unemployment Insurance (and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance) is a fraction of what these working families once generated in earnings. In homes across the State of Hawaii, hard choices are being made between Rent/Mortgage, Utility bills, Healthcare, and Food. Local working families are already struggling financially. Local working families in Hawaii need the support that S.B. 614 S.D. 1 provides. Without it, these local working families that have barely kept their heads above water through the storm of COVID-19 may go under entirely.

I appreciate your consideration of my testimony and strongly encourage the passage of S.B. 614 S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra Fernandes

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 2:46:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jim Murphy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair DelaCruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran & Members of the Senate Committee,

Both my wife and I are members of IATSE Local 665, which represents film, stage, tradeshow and convention technicians; we have worked in the Hawaii entertainment industry since the 1980s. We are proud to be a part of an industry that has brought so many benefits and so much attention to our beautiful home here in the islands. This last year has been absolutely devastating for the hundreds of Hawaii workers who depend on this industry. An almost complete shutdown of live events and the cancellation of conventions/tradeshows and film projects brought many of my union brothers and sisters to the edge of poverty - not to mention the numerous businesses which support the industry.

So many local families were struggling even before the pandemic hit. They are in even more difficult circumstances now and desperately need the assistance that SB 614 SD1 will provide. Please help us all survive this challenging time by passing this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

James L. Murphy

TO THE SENATE
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Thursday, March 26, 2021

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

PLACE: Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

TIMESLOT: WAM REGULAR SESSION OF 2021

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT SB 614SD1**

SB614SD1 in its current form which will provide tax relief for workers that collected unemployment insurance during the Covid-19 pandemic. Reducing the number of resources in this time is not a prudent way of attaining revenue to for the state. Rather, the focus should be on giving these families the ability to shop and or maintain their level of the consumption of good and services which has a great multiplier effect toward the economy.

Over 580,000 unemployment claims were filed in 2020. This translates to nearly half of Hawaii's population. Many of my family members and friends lost their jobs or have seen their wages or hours reduced. Simply put, working families are struggling and need relief.

Thousands of unemployed workers including some of my family members have drained their checking and savings accounts, lost their health insurance and are on the verge of eviction. As the Aloha state, we need to protect our working families and provide the relief needed so families can stay together and make ends meet.

Providing unemployment insurance (UI) tax relief will help hundreds of thousands of workers across Hawaii and will help keep them in their homes. It will give them extra money to provide food for their families and could potentially help many small businesses across the state.

Therefore, I recommend that SB 614SD1 be passed out of this committee. This bill and its intent will have a positive effect in my community and other socio-economic challenged areas throughout Hawaii. All amendments to this bill should be with the intent of reducing possible ambiguous language or enhancing the intent of the enabling language. Thank you for taking the time in reading my testimony.

Mahalo,

Ken Farm

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 8:45:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katie Moquin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is **Katie Moquin**. **I strongly support S.B. 614 S.D. 1.**

The working people of Hawaii have been prevented from returning to the careers that they have trained their entire lives for in order to combat a public health crisis. Unemployment Insurance (and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance) is a fraction of what these working families once generated in earnings. In homes across the State of Hawaii, hard choices are being made between Rent/Mortgage, Utility bills, Healthcare, and Food. Local working families are already struggling financially. Local working families in Hawaii need the support that S.B. 614 S.D. 1 provides. Without it, these local working families that have barely kept their heads above water through the storm of COVID-19 may go under entirely.

I appreciate your consideration of my testimony and strongly encourage the passage of S.B. 614 S.D. 1.

With Aloha,

Katie Moquin

LATE

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 11:42:15 AM
Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tony Radmilovich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is logical that sometging given as a help is not taxed!

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 11:46:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Croly	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this measure to provide some tax relief to the unemployed workers who have still not recovered from the loss of their jobs thru no fault of their own. It is actually cruel to ask these workers to send part of their unemployment benefits back to the State in the form of taxation of these benefits.

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 11:48:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Boscole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support SB614 Unemployment benefits should not be taxed as income as they are generally lower than actual income in the first place and are only temporary relief aid for those experiencing unemployment who are already financially insecure and least afford taxation. Also, as they are usually spending a great portion of their unemployment aid this is already contributing to general excise tax and other taxes paid by business etc.

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 11:52:31 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Stayton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senators,

I am writing in support of SB614 relating to taxation. Please find compassion in your hearts to reduce the burden of those who have been unemployed through no fault of their own. Taxing unemployment benefits is picking on those least able to defend themselves.

Thanks for your consideration,

Susan, Lawai, HI

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 11:54:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Will Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha committee members,

I strongly support this bill and urge you to pass it.

Workers who have struggled with unemployment during the pandemic-recession last year should not have their benefits taxed. Allowing these hardworking families to keep more money in their pockets will act as an economic stimulus by giving them more power to act as consumers. Working families are concerned with basic necessities, and those are the kinds of purchases we need to see more of at Hawai'i businesses.

More money in the pockets of working families will also prevent some families from needing government services, reduce the amount needed by others, and even prevent worse outcomes like evictions and homelessness, all of which have sever societal costs that taxpayers will end up funding one way or another.

While the state also needs tax revenue to make up for the shrinkage in GET and TAT revenues, it should collect that revenue from the wealthy, who have actually increased their net worth during the past year, not struggling working families. The wealthy are doing well because they have benefited from public infrastructure and other public resources. They have a kuleana to help make sure that infrastruture and those resources remain strong so the next generation can succeed in Hawai'i as well.

The most progressive part of our tax system is the personal income tax, which takes a larger percentage from the wealthy than it does the poor. That's a good thing for our economy and our society overall, and we should lean into that aspect of our tax system by raising income taxes on the wealthy, and adopting other progressive revenue raising ideas as well, such as taxing capital gains the same way we tax other income, lowering the estate tax exemption, taxing REITs, requiring worldwide combined reporting on corporate profit, and raising taxes on profitable corporations.

These two strategies—letting working families keep more of what they earn and raising taxes on those doing better than ever—will act as a one-two jolt of economic power for the state, helping us emerge from this recession stronger than ever.

Mahalo!

LATE

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 11:59:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It would be very wrong to tax unemployment insurance! Not a rational idea..

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 12:06:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LorrieAnn Santos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB 614 to remove having unemployment and PUA benefits and income from taxation via the State Income Tax. You cannot kick down individuals and families when they are already suffering. They need to be supported to once again be able to contribute to our economy.

Respectfully,

Lorrie Ann Santos

45-415 Lolii St., Kaneohe

808-258-5811

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 12:10:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Parker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of this bill SB 614 **which Removes State Income Tax On Unemployment Benefits**. All of us who have been collecting unemployment benefits this last year are doing so because our jobs and businesses have been devastated by the Covid-19 pandemic. The unemployment benefits have been a life saver which enables us to manage to support ourselves and our families during these crazy and devastating times. The money also helps us keep the fragile economy in these islands going. Most of us do not have the extra money to pay state taxes on this unemployment income. We are all hoping to get back on our feet this year as things begin to open and work and businesses start up again. To have to pay extra taxes at this point would create more hardship on top of the hardships we are already enduring and require us to find money we don't currently have. Please take this into consideration and vote in support of this bill. Mahalo nui loa. Lisa Parker. Small business owner and resident of Kapaa.

LATE

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 12:18:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Hacker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, like many I was furloughed from my job June 2020. This was a necessary action as my job was in tourism. Like many in my industry I have taken a significant decrease in income, even with the additional money that have been given due to the Pandemic. I am very grateful for the extended unemployment and the additional monies. However, it's a quarter of what I was making and there was no way I was able to put money aside for extras, or afford to live on what would have been left had I opted to have taxes taken out of an already small amount of money. To now be hit with an unemployment tax Bill would create a hardship for my family. I think the right thing to do in lieu of this Pandemic would be to forgive the taxes on unemployment. Mahalo.

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 12:25:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fred Dente	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senators, Please enact this bill as soon as you can. It will help my Wife and I, and many others, to pay our bills and keep us going in these trying times. We are elderly citizens and this will mean a lot to us.

Mahalo Nui Loa, Fred Dente

Kapa`a, Kaua`i, HI

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 12:31:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
joan Levy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please vote in support of SB 614. Many of us will soon be faced with unexpected state income taxes. We are already having such economic difficulty. Please help us by removing state taxes on our unemployment benefits.

THANK YOU!

Joan Levy, Kapaa resident since 1992

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 12:36:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Larry Alfrey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not approve of removing the taxes from unemployment checks. You are going to create bigger hardship for people by giving them more upfront money and then expect to get it back. They are not able to keep afloat very well as it is. This is a bad move from our elected officials. Keep the taxes as is.

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 12:40:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendy Arbeit	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

People needing unemployment benefits are suffering without having the additional burden of diminishing the amount they receive by paying taxes on that "income."

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 12:41:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am in support of this Bill. It is disgraceful that folks that are out of work and on unemployment have to pay taxes on their money If you can give employers a break on their UI taxes then you can do the same for the workers.

Please step up an do the right thing,

Mahalo, Marilyn Mick, Honolulu

LATE

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 12:43:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Catherine M Tucker	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is adding insult to injury! I am a 70 year old female who has been on unemployment since February 28th of 2020 and due to a totally archaic website I was not given the option to have taxes deducted from my unemployment for the first several months as I had been when I previously collected unemployment. So thinking because I was opening an existing claim that the taxes would be deducted. Didn't work that way, tried literally hundreds of times to contact UI to no avail. Then all of a sudden I find the link on the site to have taxes deducted. My State tax liability this year is \$295.00! Outrageous, I no longer have a job and am living on my Social Security. Please do not pass this law as there are others who are suffering greater than I.

Sincerely, Catherine M Tucker

LATE

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 12:45:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara L. George	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT!!

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 12:51:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha State Senators,

I strongly support this measure! The unemployed are barely making it as it is and then to have to pay taxes on the money really defeats the purpose of helping out.

I feel the same about social security checks..but that is another issue..not in your purview.

Mahalo,

pamela burrell, Kauai

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 12:52:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass: This bill is critically important to those collecting unemployment benefits who will soon be hit with unexpected state income taxes.

Mahalo!

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 12:57:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew Pendleton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please pass SB614 SD1.

Unemployment is for people going thru financial hardtimes.

It's not the time to tax them.

The state will get it's money when people get back to work & have money to spend. This is a win win.

For the 1st time in 40 yrs my wife & I received UI & are very appreciative. We remained financially solvent and are back to hiring employees at our 2 retail shoe stores.

Mahalo for your consideration.

LATE

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 1:00:50 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Be humane. People are struggling.

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 1:01:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John & Rita Shockley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our people are hurting. Taxing when we're down--shameful!

LATE

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 1:09:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marc Delorme	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Let's give the unemployed a chance to get back into a job before falling into poverty.

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 1:09:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eliel Starbright	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Removes State Income Tax On Unemployment Benefits. This bill is critically important to those collecting unemployment benefits who will soon be hit with unexpected state income taxes.

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 1:10:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lee Spencer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I think that the State of Hawaii should NOT collect taxes on Unemployment payments, especially after all the problems it has caused to claimants over the last year.

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 1:10:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chulee grove	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support SB614 exempting unemployment benefits from the Hawaii state income tax. These are difficult times for Hawaii families. They need all the help they can get.

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 1:14:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
TOM DIGRAZIA	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Every bit of financial assistance we can offer those suffering from COVID's economic fallout is needed now.

LATE

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 1:22:53 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael deYcaza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It doesn't make sense to give with one hand and take back with the other.

LATE

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 1:25:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bethan Pualani Baptista	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I'm very concerned that the government has chosen to tax unemployment. The taxes for these funds were paid before deposit. And now they are going to be taxed one more time before distribution and after the recipient receives it it will be taxed every where the funds are used. How does this remedy the economy when the very reason we are striving to balance budget and stimulate the economy is for the people. There are other ar:as that can be legislated into income for the State Budget. Please find another way using more capable taxpayers to balance the budget. Lord knows there ate many of them here.

Sincerely Yours,

Bethan P Baptista

LATE

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 1:43:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherrie Orr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha I have been a very fortunate resident of Hawaii since 1977. I have worked hard and achieved success and respect. I have been an employee and a successful employer. The abrupt cessation of the visitor industry has been devastating to our state. As a Personal Concierge my plans and aspirations for 2020 came to an immediate halt due to the pandemic as have to all others in my industry; hospitality, food & beverage. entertainment, farmers producing the wonderful produce that is lovingly cultivated and all those who have worked tirelessly day and night to service to our visitors.

Please consider taking immediate action to exempt the State income tax on Unemployment Compensation or PUA retroactive March 2020 through December 31, 2020. Returning this tax money to the hardworking employees of our State would be greatly appreciated. Our economy is struggling and the unemployed are suffering greatly living on a reduced income and experiencing tremendous anguish not knowing if our jobs will be available to us in the future ~ threatening our security further.

Regards,

Sherrie Orr

Kauai

LATE

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 1:53:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malia Sato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I, Malia S. Sato support bill SB614 because I feel that our Unemployment benefits should not be taxed by the state of Hawaii.

Thank You,

Malia Sato

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 1:59:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raphiell Nolin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because of the hardship involved in paying tax on this unemployment money that is need to sustain me until I can start work again.

LATE

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 2:09:56 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Avi Okin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Losing employment is hard enough and taxing those benefits is thoughtless and unnecessary. I support removing taxing unemployment benefits.



LATE

To: Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Attn: Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and Committee members

Hawai'i Workers Center Testimony for March 4, 2021, Committee Hearing Supporting SB614, Exempting From State Income Tax, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) as Well as Unemployment Compensation Received by an Individual During the Period of March 1, 2020, Through December 31, 2020. It Also Allows Taxpayers to Credit the State Income Tax That Was Deducted and Withheld From Their Unemployment Compensation or PUA Against Their Overall State Tax Liability

The Hawai'i Workers Center (HWC) is a resource and organizing center that addresses the issues and concerns of unemployed workers, low-wage workers and immigrants. For the past several months, we have been publicly advocating for unemployed workers, urging the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR) to reopen its unemployment offices and provide safe, direct, in-person services for the thousands of workers who have been furloughed or permanently laid off since March 2020. Given the poor condition of DLIR's archaic mainframe computer, the difficulty of submitting a claim, and the department's failure to be responsive to claimants' emails and phone calls, direct servicing that keeps claimants and public employees safe is urgent and essential.

We sincerely congratulate the unemployed workers who were able to navigate through the Unemployment Insurance (UI) system, despite inadequate communications from the DLIR, in order to receive the assistance that they need to survive. With the COVID-19 pandemic being an ever-present crisis in our lives as businesses remain closed, workers remain unemployed or with reduced hours, and more of us need to stay at home to take care of ourselves and our family members, UI takes on a very crucial role in our lives. While the world has changed dramatically and financial situations for so many of our friends and family have grown more difficult, tuition still needs to be paid,

groceries still need to be bought, teeth still need to be checked on, cars still need to be repaired, people are on the verge of eviction, and that doesn't even include the emergencies that come up every now and then in our lives. We need money to pay the bills and meet our basic needs.

By exempting PUA and other unemployment benefits from state income tax, the legislature can make sure that more money stays in people's pockets. This will help to unload at least some of the financial burdens that workers are facing right now. It will also allow working class families to have enough to spend on local businesses and to save up to help their families make it through this pandemic and economic crisis.

SD1's amendment allowing for taxpayers to credit the state income tax that was deducted and withheld from their unemployment benefits or PUA against their overall state tax liability is helpful in terms of tax fairness, **but the Hawai'i Workers Center prefers the original language in SB614. The original language in SB614 required the Department of Taxation to retroactively refund state income tax deducted and withheld from individuals for unemployment benefits during the period of March 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020. We prefer this because money would directly return back to the pockets of working class families in desperate need of relief, without placing the onus on them to navigate or extend further resources to ask others to navigate through the world of taxes. Workers, employed or unemployed, have a lot more pressing concerns at the moment.**

We also ask for the legislature to stand up for their constituents, many who still have been unable to file unemployment claims, or who are having trouble with their current claims. We need to continue to urge the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations Director and other state officials to implement common sense solutions like safely reopening DLIR offices in each county for direct in-person services, resolve staffing shortages and technological inadequacies at the Unemployment Insurance office, as well as open up computers in public spaces like our libraries with trained staff. This will help to ensure that unemployed workers get the service that they deserve, allowing for families to be able to finally receive some relief.

Submitted by Rev. Sam Domingo, John Witeck, and Jun Shin of the Hawai'i Workers Center

Phone Number: 808-255-6663

Email: hiworkerscenter@gmail.com

LATE

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 2:36:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mele Stokesberry	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It would be outrageous to tax the meager unemployment insurance payments that have been keeping people fed and (hopefully) housed during the pandemic.

The pandemic shut downs have not affected me, because I am a State retiree and a home-owner, but I know there are thousands in Hawaii who are out of work and barely making ends meet, feeding the caring for their kids, and trying to pay their bills. Please vote this down!

LATE

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 2:40:04 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
carol lee kamekona	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of not taxing unemployment benefits as many have already been hit by the pandemic and incomes have been greatly affected. Please consider not taxing those already having issues making ends meet with mortgage/rent, food etc.

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 2:51:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Polli Oliver	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Strongly support this bill. Those who have received life saving unemployment payments, need relief from additional taxation. Please pass this well warranted bill.

Mahalo

LATE

LATE

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 3:08:44 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeannie McCabe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The unemployed are already struggling. Many are behind in their bills and are saving no money toward taxes. Please support this bill.

LATE

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 3:23:52 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please vote in favor of SB614 SD1 to help struggling families in Hawaii!

Mahalo!

Andrew Isoda

Napili, Maui

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 3:31:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ANTONIO ANDRES LOPEZ	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB614 SD1. There are other sources of taxes besides the backs of the unemployed people.

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 3:44:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong support.

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 4:01:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jane Yang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this bill. As a citizen in Honolulu, it was financially difficult to pay for my state tax on my unemployment checks. I paid over \$1000 in taxes for my checks. I still have checks pending from the start of October 2020 till today. And have been still furloughed.

LATE

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 4:33:25 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Meredith Buck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB614. **This bill is critically important to those collecting unemployment benefits who will soon be hit with unexpected state income taxes.**

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 4:45:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mai Ly Schara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

RELATING TO TAXATION.

Retroactively exempts from state income tax, unemployment compensation and pandemic unemployment assistance (PUA) received from March 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020. Requires the department of taxation to allow taxpayers to credit the state income tax deducted and withheld from their unemployment compensation and PUA during that time period against their overall state tax liability. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

LATE

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 4:52:26 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lena Mochimaru	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in full support of SB614. As we all know this has been a very difficult time for many of us who were already struggling before the pandemic happened. Without our unemployment benefits many of us would be in worse situations. Unfortunately the way the unemployment system in Hawaii is set up has only added more stress. Being that there is basically no way to get in touch with an Unemployment benefits agent by phone, by email or in person in the middle of the world basically being shut down is inhumane. Having the head of the Labor dept saying the reason the office is closed because they are scared of an angry mob is the most unacceptable reasoning I have ever heard. Hoping the problem will go away is not the solution and has only exasperated the problem. There are solutions and until we can get thousands of dollars of unemployment that is owed to the people and would help put money back into the economy. The least that can be done is alleviating the tax from these unemployment benefits. To have this financial burden of owing taxes, when many of us are stretched thin is only going to push people over the edge. We need a break. Please do right by the people that you represent, pass SB614!

Mahalo,

Lena

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 4:59:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colleen Rost-Banik	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Colleen Rost-Banik, and I am a resident of Honolulu. I respectfully urge you to support SB614 which would exempt unemployment insurance from state income tax. The passage of this bill is critical to Hawaii's residents being able to sustain their lives and livelihoods during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent economic burdens that so many are facing.

Thank you for taking this measure into serious consideration. I trust that you will vote in support of this bill and in support of unemployed residents.

Respectfully,
Colleen Rost-Banik, PhD

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 5:01:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adrian Bontje	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong support!!

Adrian Bontje, Koloa

LATE

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 5:05:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Catherine Hage,LCSW	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to testify in support of SB614, to allow those in need who are receiving unemployment benefits, to retain the full benefit amount to cover their very basic living expenses. As a Social Worker and long time resident of Hawai'i, I see and feel the crippling effects of the highest cost of living, exacerbated by proportionately lower salaries, for those who have managed to stay employed during such extraordinary times. Please vote to pass this bill.

Thank you again for your kind consideration on this important matter.

Catherine Hage, LCSW

LATE

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 5:20:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Kieskowski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The burden on Hawaii's unemployed because of the pandemic has been great. I support this bill to lessen the impact.

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 6:24:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rexann Dubiel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our citizens are already in dire straits.

Please, pass this bill.

So many have already suffered.

They need this exemption.

LATE

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 7:25:45 PM
Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
patricia westbrook	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I just received an email about this bill. Mid-February I was called back to work for the first time since March 17,2020. I relied on and was very grateful for the assist of unemployment.

Due to the still unstable situation with guests travelling to Hawaii, I could be out of work in a blink of an eye. I feel for those who are about to be without further assistance but this bill would help during this time that needs financial compassion.

Mahalo for your kind attention to those in need.

Patricia Westbrook

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 7:32:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Garris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.Assistance during a emergency should never be taxed.

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 9:01:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marta Barreras	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB614. No taxation on unemployment income.

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 11:11:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
darren rodriguez jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee,

My name is **Darren Rodrigues Jr.** I am a member of IATSE Local 665. Local 665 represents Entertainment Technicians in Stagecraft, Tradeshow & Conventions, and Film/TV industries across the State of Hawaii. **I strongly support S.B. 614 S.D. 1.**

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Entertainment Technicians experienced nearly 100% unemployment until mid-September 2020. We have only just recently been able to rebuild some of the work momentum lost in the Film/TV industry as a result of the pandemic, but not without significant diligence in adhering to COVID safety protocols. Our Stagecraft/Live Events sector has not resumed in any significant fashion. It is a misnomer to say that people are merely “not working”. The working people of Hawaii have been prevented from returning to the careers that they have trained their entire lives for in order to combat a public health crisis. Unemployment Insurance (and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance) is a fraction of what these working families once generated in earnings. In homes across the State of Hawaii, hard choices are being made between Rent/Mortgage, Utility bills, Healthcare, and Food. Local working families are already struggling financially. Local working families in Hawaii need the support that S.B. 614 S.D. 1 provides. Without it, these local working families that have barely kept their heads above water through the storm of COVID-19 may go under entirely.

I appreciate your consideration of my testimony and strongly encourage the passage of S.B. 614 S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Darren Rodrigues Jr

LATE

SB-614-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/4/2021 8:21:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/4/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacquelyn Chappel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Bill 614. Please do not unnecessarily double tax citizens in the middle of an already a difficult time. This income that was meant to help not hurt them.