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HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
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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 NOS. 2783, 2784, 2785, 2787, 2789, 2794 AND 2795

February 18, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference

RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS

The Department of Budget and Finance supports moving these measures, or similar ones, as re-opener negotiations are currently in progress and vehicle bills may be necessary if an agreement is reached or arbitration award is issued requiring an appropriation prior to the end of the legislative session.

These measures appropriate and authorize appropriations for collective bargaining cost items for salary adjustments and other cost adjustments for Fiscal Biennium 2021-23.

The bargaining units (BU) addressed in the bills and the bill number for the Administration measure for that BU are as follows: Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 2783 (S.B. No. 3060), BU 2; S.B. No. 2784 (S.B. No. 3061), BU 3; S.B. No. 2785 (S.B. No. 3062), BU 4; S.B. No. 2787 (S.B. No. 3063), BU 6; S.B. No. 2789 (S.B. No. 3064), BU 8; S.B. No. 2794 (S.B. No. 3068), BU 13; and S.B. No. 2795 (S.B. No. 3069), BU 14.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 18, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

by
Kalbert K. Young
Vice President for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer
University of Hawai'i System

SB 2785 – RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The University of Hawai'i **supports** SB 2785, Relating to Public Employment Cost Items. This bill provides appropriations for collective bargaining cost items for members of Unit (4) and their excluded counterparts for fiscal biennium 2021-2023.

Although an agreement between the employer and the employees has not yet been reached, this bill serves as a vehicle should such an agreement occur.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS

C O R P O R A T I O N

Quality Healthcare For All

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

February 18, 2022
Conference Room 211
10:00 a.m.
Via videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol

Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 2785
Making Appropriations for Collective Bargaining Cost Items.
Appropriates funds for fiscal biennium 2021-2023 for salary costs for public employees in collective bargaining unit (4) and their excluded counterparts.

Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **support of S.B. 2785** that will appropriate funds for fiscal biennium 2021-2023 for salary costs for public employees in collective bargaining unit 4 and their excluded counterparts.

HHSC values all of its employees in the public sector unions. However, HHSC's financial condition cannot absorb collective bargaining pay increases without a corresponding general fund appropriation to pay for those raises.

Since fiscal year 2018, the cumulative impact of the collective bargaining pay raises (including fringe benefits) that is included in HHSC's expense base is approximately \$54,688,000, which the State has funded through special fund ("B" fund) appropriations. For HHSC, a special fund appropriation only allows the hospitals to spend the cash that they generate on paying these types of raises. HHSC's hospitals were already not able to generate sufficient cash to pay for all of its operating expenses. This is why HHSC constantly needs a general fund appropriation of between 15 to 20% of its operating budget just to end each fiscal year with a minimal level of cash on hand. HHSC needs a **general fund appropriation** to pay for the proposed raises; otherwise, it will need an emergency appropriation to pay for these raises in the current Legislative Session.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee. We appreciate the Committee's continued focus on improving healthcare for our island communities.

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HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 18, 2022

S.B. 2783, S.B. 2784, S.B. 2785, S.B. 2787,
S.B. 2789, S.B. 2790, S.B. 2794, S.B. 2795,
S.B. 2796 – RELATING TO PUBLIC
EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 2783, S.B. 2784, S.B. 2785, S.B. 2787, S.B. 2789, S.B. 2790, S.B. 2794, S.B. 2795, and S.B. 2796, each of which provides a funding vehicle to implement collective bargaining agreements for Bargaining Units 02, 03, 04, 06, 08, 09, 13, 14, and 15 respectively, for the fiscal biennium 2021 – 2023.

On January 15, 2022, our registered professional nurses in bargaining unit 09 ratified a successor 4-year contract, effective July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2025. We respectfully request S.B. 2790 be amended to include the appropriate funding amounts and defer to the Employer to provide the cost estimates.

Although we are in the middle of the negotiations process with the Employer, no other units have reached agreement, therefore those respective bills contain no appropriations at this time. We respectfully request the Committee pass these vehicle bills in case we are able to settle our contracts prior to adjournment.

Thank you for the opportunity to support the above referenced measures.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director