

JOSH GREEN, M. D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



BRENNA H. HASHIMOTO
CHIEF NEGOTIATOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

Statement of
BRENNA H. HASHIMOTO
Chief Negotiator, Office of Collective Bargaining

Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
February 7, 2023
9:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
HB 164, RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL LICENSE FEE RENEWALS

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and members of the committee:

The Office of Collective Bargaining (OCB) appreciates the intent of House Bill 164, which requires each public employer to pay for an employer's employees' professional license renewal fees. However, we must respectfully oppose this measure.

OCB is concerned that payments for professional license fee renewals is a negotiable cost item subject to the collective bargaining process.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/07/2023
Time: 09:00 AM
Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Committee: House Labor & Government
Operations

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0164 RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL LICENSE FEE
RENEWALS.

Purpose of Bill: Requires each public employer to pay for the employer's
employees' professional license renewal fees.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) provides comments regarding HB 164. The Department appreciates efforts to support the recruitment and retention of professional employees statewide by lowering barriers to entry into professions that require a professional license.

If the bill passes, the Department would request that appropriate staffing be included in the bill. The Department does not currently have staff dedicated to tracking and reimbursing professional licensing fees.

As an alternative, the Department recommends all fees be waived at the point of application or renewal at the appropriate licensing agency rather than be reimbursed after the fact by the employer. This would be similar to how the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board handles fees for the initial license and renewals.

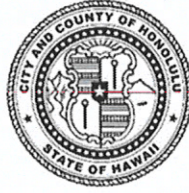
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 164 relating to professional license fee renewals.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 10TH FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR



NOLA N. MIYASAKI
DIRECTOR

FLORENCIO C. BAGUIO, JR.
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

February 3, 2023

The Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair
The Honorable Andrew T. Garrett, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Labor & Government Operations
House of Representatives, Room 309
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: H.B. 164
Relating to Professional License Fee Renewals

H.B. 164 requires each public employer to pay for employees' professional license renewal fees for professional licenses necessary for the employees to carry out their duties.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Human Resources, respectfully notes that the proposed requirement involves a matter subject to collective bargaining and some public sector bargaining units have already negotiated similar provisions into respective collective bargaining agreements.

If this matter were to pass, the City requests the Committee impose a delayed effective date that would enable the City to determine which employees are subject to required professional licenses and budget accordingly in the following year's operating budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nola N. Miyasaki". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Nola N. Miyasaki
Director

TO: Members of the Committee on Labor & Government Operations

FROM: Natalie J. Iwasa, CPA, Inc.
808-395-3233

HEARING: 9 a.m. Tuesday, February 7, 2023

SUBJECT: HB 164, Requires Employers to Pay for Employees' Professional License Renewals - **OPPOSED**

Aloha Chair Matayoshi and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to provide testimony on HB164, which would require employers to pay for renewal fees of employees' professional licenses. I oppose this bill.

Employers often offer this as an employee benefit. Small businesses are burdened enough by government regulations. We do not need another mandate.

Please vote "no" on HB 164.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808 543.0011 • Fax: 808.528 0922

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Labor and Government Operations

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 7, 2023

H.B. 164 — RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL LICENSE FEE RENEWAL

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 164 which requires each public employer to pay for the employer's employees' professional license renewal fee.

As the state's largest public sector union, we represent many of the professionally licensed employees impacted by the passage of this measure. Currently, it is the employer's choice to pay for any necessary professional license renewal fees for an employee. Unfortunately, many employers choose to not pay for their employee's renewal fees, which has caused financial hardships for many public employees. By requiring each public employer to pay for necessary license renewal fees, it will appropriately shift the cost burden from the employee to the employer. It will also enable each public employer to attract and retain qualified employees to provide services that are essential to the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of H.B. 164.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director