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GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

HAWAII RETIREMENT
SAVINGS BOARD

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
HAWAII RETIREMENT SAVINGS BOARD
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 01, 2024

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair,
The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Friday, March 1, 2024
Time: 9:55 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

FROM: William Kunstman, Co-Chair
Hawaii Retirement Savings Board

Re: S.B. 2553 SD1 RELATING TO HAWAII RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACT

The **Hawai'i Retirement Savings Board strongly supports** this proposal to require employers to automatically enroll employees in the Hawai'i Retirement Savings Program and allow employees to opt-out instead of opt-in to the program. SB2553 SD1 also makes a housekeeping amendment to the definition of "covered employer."

There is an urgent need to provide a viable option for private sector employers and workers to have access to a state-facilitated retirement savings plan. An employer survey¹ conducted by the Hawaii Retirement Savings Task Force identified that the majority of small business owners agree that being able to offer a voluntary, portable retirement savings program would help local small businesses attract and retain quality employees and stay competitive. Opt-out retirement plans also increase participation rates as too few workers would otherwise put away savings for retirement.

The Board believes that without this change the program may not be viable, especially as aligning Hawai'i's law with most of the other states' automatic enrollment provisions facilitates the potential for Hawai'i to engage in an interstate compact agreement. The Board has not taken steps to conduct a feasibility study because it believes that it would fail to procure a vendor willing to conduct the study based on the current statutory program design i.e., "opt-in." Similarly, the Board believes its efforts to recruit an Executive Director have been hindered by the current "opt-in" program design.

Moreover, failure for the State to facilitate a private sector retirement savings plan for employers and workers will greatly impact the state's economy and the State's fiscal situation. This negative affect on our economy and the State's fiscal situation is forecast to significantly increase as Hawaii's population continues to age and a relatively low-

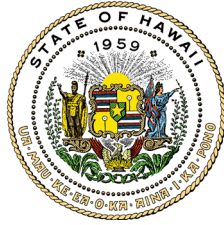
growth workforce is required to support increased levels of social services for seniors without adequate savings. A 2020 University of Hawaii study² prepared for DBEDT estimated that this dynamic will produce a \$7.7 billion hole in Hawaii's economy by 2035.

It is for the reasons above that the Hawai'i Retirement Savings Board urges the Committee to passage of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this vital matter.

¹ https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2022/bills/DC188_.pdf

² https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/reports/Hawaii_Generational_Economy_Oct2020.pdf



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

KENNETH FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR
Executive Office on Aging

Telephone
(808) 586-0100

Fax
(808) 586-0185

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2553 SD1
RELATING TO HAWAII' I RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACT

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATOR SHARON Y. MORIWAKI, VICE CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing: Friday, March 1, 2024, 9:55 A.M., Conference Room 211

- 1 **EOA Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of Health
- 2 (DOH) **supports** the intent of this measure.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 4 **Purpose and Justification:** Clarifies the definition of "covered employer" under this Act. Requires
- 5 covered employers to automatically enroll covered employees into the Hawai'i Retirement Savings
- 6 Program unless the employee chooses to "opt out."
- 7 Automatic enrollment in a retirement savings program is considered a "best practice" in the industry
- 8 and will enable more employees to save for their future. Additionally, the opt-out feature allows
- 9 employees to make informed decisions about their retirement savings. It also encourages employees
- 10 to engage with their retirement plans and make proactive choices about their financial futures.
- 11 **Recommendation:** EOA supports the intent of SB2553 SD1.
- 12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI
PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
MARCH 1, 2024
SB 2553 SD1 RELATING TO HAWAII RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACT**

Good morning, Char Dela Cruz and members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901 and is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to supporting the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, on-line sellers, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

We understand the intent of this measure but have some concerns about SB 2553 SD1. This measure clarifies the definition of "covered employer" under the Hawaii Retirement Savings Act; requires covered employers to automatically enroll covered employees into the Hawaii Retirement Savings Program unless the employee chooses to opt out.

Businesses like everyone want to see our kupuna enjoy retirement and not having to rely on public assistance programs. This Retirement Savings program already exists and is already helping to accomplish this with employees being able to opt into the program.

Our concern is the financial impact on especially our small locally owned businesses if they MUST automatically enroll every employee and then process them if they want to opt out of the program. **There is an ongoing cost to the businesses to implement and maintain this type of program.** Customer service jobs often see a high turnover in employees. **If our accounting is inhouse we must pay the person more for the added responsibility. If a 3rd party is used, the contract price will increase to opt everyone in and then opt them out if they don't want to participate.**

We are also concerned if businesses, especially smaller locally owned businesses, can afford this added cost to administer at this time. **The recent Maui Fires have devastated many small businesses.** This includes businesses who expanded their store to Lahaina but originally are from a neighboring island as well as the lack of customers coming to their stores as the visitors are not back to pre-fire levels on Maui. **The recent increase in minimum wage in January along with higher cost of healthcare, shipping, and products to name a few has also had a devastating effect on businesses, especially small locally owned ones.** Walk around any mall and you will see stores have quietly closed. **We don't want to see more small local retailers closing because they can't afford to do business in Hawaii.**

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, March 1, 2024; 9:55 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2553, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO HAWAII RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACT.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 2553, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO HAWAII RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACT.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would clarify the definition of “covered employer” under the Hawaii Retirement Savings Act, and require automatic enrollment of private sector employees in the Hawaii Retirement Savings Program unless the employee opts out.

A hallmark of the HPCA is our steadfast belief that the social determinants of health -- more than any other factor -- contributes to the overall wellbeing of our people. Person who experience homelessness, language barriers, and poverty are more likely to suffer persistent, chronic health issues and have shorter life expectations than those who do not. Seventy-three percent of the patients seen by FQHCs live below one hundred percent of the federal poverty limit.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2553, Senate Draft 1
Friday, March 1, 2024; 9:55 a.m.
Page 2

Our patients **ARE** the ALICE population. As seen through the fine work of the Aloha United Way in their groundbreaking research on the Asset Limited, Income Constrained Employed in 2022, there were 148,771 ALICE households in Hawaii, with 41,619 households that live below the poverty line. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, another 35,000 had fallen into ALICE status or below by the end of 2022.

This bill is intended to help ALICE families protect themselves from future economic shock. It would give families the financial tools to plan for the future and to ensure that they will have the resources to adjust to changing demands that will be placed on them as they progress through life.

The HPCA wishes to thank AARP for shepherding this concept throughout the community for nearly the past decade and not giving up our most vulnerable populations. We commend them and stand ready to assist them in this worthy cause.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



1001 Bishop Street | Suite 625 | Honolulu, HI 96813-2830
1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-536-2882
aarp.org/hi | aarphi@aarp.org | twitter.com/AARPHawaii
facebook.com/AARPHawaii

The State Legislature
The Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, March 1, 2024
Room 211, 9:55 a.m.

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz Chair
From: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawaii
Re: Strong Support for S.B. 2553 SD1 - Relating to Hawaii Retirement Savings Act

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

My name is Keali'i Lopez, and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social mission organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and over 140,000 in Hawai'i. We advocate for the issues that matter to Hawai'i families including financial security, access to affordable, quality health care for all generations; and serves as a reliable information source on issues critical to people over the age of fifty.

AARP Hawai'i **strongly supports S.B. 2553, SD1** which amends and aligns provisions of the Hawai'i Retirement Savings Program, the state-facilitated payroll deduction retirement savings program for Hawaii's private sector employees.

The Hawai'i Retirement Savings Program (Act 296 -SLH 2022) creates a low-cost, easy retirement savings program that will help about 174,000 private sector workers set aside money through an automatic payroll deduction from their paycheck. Through Act 296, a board has been established to develop and oversee this state-facilitated automatic IRA program which includes hiring an administrator and support staff to start the program up over the next two years. The program would be a public-private partnership, like the college 529 savings program.

S.B. 2553 SD1 clarifies the definition of "covered employer" under the Hawai'i Retirement Savings Act and adds automatic enrollment of private sector employees into the program unless the employee opts out. These are necessary amendments and alignment of administrative provisions that will help facilitate successful implementation and program roll-out. To date, there are 19 states that have enacted a retirement savings program for private sector workers. Fifteen states (which include Hawaii) are automatic Individual Retirement Account (IRA) programs. All these states (except Hawaii) include the automatic enrollment provision where the employ can opt out in their retirement savings program. This provision has

been extremely helpful to savers and is easy for them to use. Hawai'i is the only state with a "voluntary opt-in" enrollment provision. In both the public and private sectors, automatic enrollment for workers into retirement accounts is considered a "Best Practice" in the retirement savings industry. The **opt-out feature** increases participation while remaining completely voluntary for workers. As of the December 2023, more than \$1 billion had been saved by 750,000 new savers -- generally \$50 and \$60 a paycheck. The number of savers and savings continues grow very steadily among the participating states.

With Hawaii's program still in an early development stage, it is critical now that the proposed amendments in S.B. 2553 are incorporated to align Hawai'i with the 14 other states and open the pathway for a future partnership with an existing program, should Hawai'i chooses to. (For example, partner with OregonSaves, or Colorado Secure Savings). This inter-state compact agreement will likely save Hawai'i time, money, and be easier to maintain over time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of S.B. 2553, SD1.



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, March 1, 2024
9:55 a. m.
State Capitol Conference Room 211 and via videoconference

Re: SB 2553 SD 1 Relating to Hawaii Retirement Savings Act

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I am Gary Simon, a member of the board of the Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition, whose mission is to improve the quality of life of those who give and receive care by increasing community awareness of caregiver issues through continuing advocacy, education, and training. I am offering testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition.

The Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition strongly supports SB 2553 SD 1, which requires covered employers to automatically enroll covered employees into the Hawaii Retirement Savings Program unless the employee chooses to opt out.

Auto enrollment policies are particularly effective with young workers and low-income employees, resulting in higher account balances. Companies with retirement savings program auto enrollment policies see higher overall contribution rates than companies with only voluntary enrollment.

Auto enrollment is a good practice based on good public policy (promoting the financial stability of our residents).

We urge you to support the Hawaii Retirement Savings Program and SB 2553 SD 1, and we urge you to recommend its passage.

Mahalo for seriously considering the bill.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Simon".

Gary Simon



Email gsimon@aarp.org



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

LATE

HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 225
Friday, March 1, 2024, 9:55 A.M.

To The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Members of the committee on Ways and Means

COMMENTS ON SB22553 SD1 RELATING TO HAWAII RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACT

The Maui Chamber of Commerce would like to offer **COMMENTS on SB2553 SD1**.

The Chamber understands the intent of this measure but have some concerns. This measure clarifies the definition of "covered employer" under the Hawaii Retirement Savings Act; requires covered employers to automatically enroll covered employees into the Hawaii Retirement Savings Program unless the employee chooses to opt out.

Businesses, like everyone, want to see our kupuna enjoy retirement and not having to rely on public assistance programs. This Retirement Savings program already exists and is already helping to accomplish this with employees being able to opt into the program.

Our concern is the financial impact on especially our small locally owned businesses if they MUST automatically enroll every employee and then process them if they want to opt out of the program. There is an ongoing cost to the businesses to implement and maintain this type of program. Customer service jobs often see a high turnover in employees. If our accounting is inhouse we must pay the person more for the added responsibility. If a third party is used, the contract price will increase to opt everyone in and then opt them out if they don't want to participate.

As the state looks at more economic development, we have to ensure we have a business-friendly environment to attract new industries.

Small businesses are the life blood of Hawaii's economy and to pile yet another requirement on them is approaching (or passed) the last straw.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer **COMMENTS on SB2553 SD1**.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Friday, March 1, 2024

TIME: 9:55 AM

RE: SB 2553 SD1 RELATING TO HAWAII RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACT.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Linda Dorset, and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2553 SD1. The purpose of this bill is to amend and align the provisions of the Hawaii Retirement Savings program, the state-facilitated payroll deduction retirement savings program for Hawaii's private sector employees.

The Hawai'i Retirement Savings Program (Act 296 -SLH 2022) creates a low-cost, easy retirement savings program that will help about 174,000+ private sector workers set aside money out of their regular paycheck, but only if they take advantage of it. This program which is currently in the planning and development phase benefits Hawai'i 's workers, small business owners and taxpayers. As a taxpayer, helping people save for their retirement will save the State money in the long run. Future retirees won't have to rely on public-assistance programs to make ends meet.

The proposed amendment would clarify the definition of "covered employer" under the Hawaii Retirement Savings Act and require automatic enrollment of private sector employees in the Hawaii Retirement Savings Program unless the employee **opts out**. It is more likely that workers would stay in if enrolled than take the trouble to opt in. These are necessary amendments that will help facilitate successful implementation and program roll-out.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Linda Dorset
Wailuku, Maui

SB-2553-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 3:21:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
BLYTH KOZUKI	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2553 SD1

RELATING TO RETIREMENT SAVINGS

To: Sen. Dela Cruz, Chair; Sen. Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee

My name is Blyth Kozuki and I am in strong support of SB 2553. This bill amending the Hawaii Retirement Savings Act gives this program the best chance of being successful.

When I started working, retirement was the last thing on my mind. I was young, eager to start a career, earn good wages and get on with life. I wasn't thinking long-term. However, I was fortunate to get a job in the federal sector and I was **automatically** enrolled in their civil service retirement program. After 30 years I am grateful to be retired with a pension that allows me to live a good life. I want that for our future generations but I realize that Hawaii's high cost of living will make retirement the last thing on their minds. They might not take advantage of compounding interest to grow their savings and they run the risk of not having enough to live on when they retire.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony and I urge you to support SB 2553.

Blyth Kozuki

Sen. District 9, Hawaii Kai-Kahala-Diamond Head

Email: blythkozuki@hotmail.com

SB-2553-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 4:52:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dan Gardner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Dan Gardner and my wife and I are STRONG supporters of SB 2553 SD1 to amend and align the provisions of the Hawaii Retirement Savings program. The HRS program is a win-win for Hawaii's workers, small business owners and taxpayers. As more workers can now save at their places of work, future retirees will not have to rely on, or rely less on, public assistance programs. The HRS program is currently in planning and development led by DoL and the Hawaii Retirement Savings Board. SB 2553 SD1 will clarify the definition of "covered employee" and will automatically enroll employees unless they opt out. These amendments and administrative adjustments are necessary and will promote a smooth program start up. Thank you.

Dan Gardner, Honolulu, daniel.dano.gardner@gmail.com

SB-2553-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 7:46:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Krieg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on S.B. No. 2553 SD1
RELATING TO HAWAII RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACT
Friday, March 1, 2024 at 9:55 a.m.
Conference Room 211 & Video Conference
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee:

My name is Barbara Krieg. I submit this testimony in strong support of S.B. 2553, SD1 which presents important corrections to the Hawaii Retirement Savings Program statute. My testimony today is presented in my individual capacity.

The Hawaii Retirement Savings Program has the potential to change the retirement lives of hundreds of thousands of Hawaii residents. For the first time, all working individuals will have access to a payroll-based retirement savings program.

However, for the program to succeed, we need to establish - without undue delay - a program that is cost-effective to administer. The best way to do this is to partner with an existing program in another state (or multiple states). This approach will allow Hawaii to take advantage of the economies of scale and also to establish an operational program up to a year or more sooner than if Hawaii has to set up a stand-alone program.

Under the current legislation, Hawaii is the only state with the so-called “opt in” provision. This unique approach makes it less likely that another program or contractor would be willing or able to partner with us. S.B. 2553, SD1 would instead conform the Hawaii program to all of the other states so the default would be for every eligible employee to be automatically enrolled in the program unless he or she chooses to “opt out”. This critical change aligns Hawaii with the other states and would permit us the opportunity to partner with other programs to expeditiously set up the program and operate it in the most cost-effective manner.

S.B. 2553, SD1’s change to an “opt out” program is consistent with the current best practices for payroll-based retirement savings programs. In recent years, more and more 401k and similar type programs have utilized automatic employee enrollments with the opportunity to easily opt out. Experience has shown that the automatic enrollment results in significantly greater program participation so that more and more employees can eventually retire with financial stability.

Mahalo for your support of S.B. No. 2553, SD1 to amend the Hawaii Retirement Savings Program statute.

Barbara Krieg
Email: barbkrieg808@gmail.com

Testimony on Senate Bill 2553 SD1
RELATING TO RETIREMENT SAVINGS
Friday, March 1, 9:55 AM
State Capitol - Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christina Enoka, and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2553 SD1. The purpose of this bill is to amend and align the provisions of the Hawaii Retirement Savings program, the state-facilitated payroll deduction retirement savings program for Hawaii's private sector employees.

The Hawai'i Retirement Savings Program (Act 296 -SLH 2022) creates a low-cost, easy retirement savings program that will help about 174,000+ private sector workers set aside money out of their regular paycheck. This savings program will make it easier for Hawaii's workers save for their retirement. About half of all private sector workers, many who work for small businesses, do not have access to a retirement savings plan at their jobs, or have a simple IRA on their own. This program benefits Hawai'i's workers, small business owners and taxpayers. As a taxpayer, helping people save for their retirement will save the State money in the long run. Future retirees won't have to rely on public-assistance programs to make ends meet. The Hawaii Retirement Savings program is a common-sense approach to help Hawaii's hard working people with a real opportunity to save for the future.

The Hawaii program is currently in the planning and development phase led by the Department of Labor and the Hawaii Retirements Savings Board. S.B. 2553 SD1 would clarify the definition of "covered employer" under the Hawaii Retirement Savings Act, and require automatic enrollment of private sector employees in the Hawaii Retirement Savings Program unless the employee opts out. These are necessary amendments and alignment of administrative provisions that will help facilitate a successful implementation and program roll-out.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Christina Enoka
Mililani, Oahu
Ncsmn150@gmail.com

Kevin L. Johnson, Ko Olina, Hawai'i

Hawai'i Legislature
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, March 1, 2024, Conference Room 211, 9:55 a.m.

TO: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
RE: Support for HB2197 Relating to Hawai'i Retirement Savings Act

I would like to take this opportunity to express my **strong support of SB2553 SD1 Relating to Hawai'i Retirement Savings Act.**

The Hawai'i Retirement Savings Program, wisely implemented by the Legislature in 2022 provides a foundation for people working in small businesses to plan for retirement. This program clearly gives a greater number of people access to savings plans not otherwise available to them. It's a win-win for them and the State, as they will not be solely reliant on government funding in their post-work years.

As the program moves through it's development phase the Department of Labor through the Hawaii Retirement Savings Board has recognized that clarification of the definition of "covered employer" and requiring participation unless the employee opts out, are two amendments that will significantly improve the long term viability and success of this valuable program.

I would ask your **support of SB2553 SD1** to help ensure an economically robust retirement community for Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Johnson

SB-2553-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 8:49:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Missy Saiki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support!

Thank you.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing:

Friday, March 1, 2024, 9:55 am
Conference Room 211 and Video Conference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONEY ON SENATE BILL 2553, SD1
RELATING TO RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACT**

To: Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; Sen. Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee

My name is Anna Filler and I am in strong support of **SB 2553, SD1**. The purpose of this bill clarifies the definition of “covered employer” under the Hawaii Retirement Savings Act. Requires covered employers to automatically enroll covered employees into the Hawaii Retirement Savings Program unless the employee chooses to opt out

This bill will amend and align the retirement savings program to be an automatic enrollment with the opt-out feature which will make it easier for private sector workers to contribute towards their retirement savings. It is important that people save as much as they can and build their future financial security. This bill will help Hawaii launch a necessary program that will benefit many workers and small business employers in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. I urge you to support **SB 2553, SD1**

Anna Filler
Sen. District 12, Waikiki, Ala Moana, Kaka’ako
Email: afiller@twc.com

SB-2553-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 9:36:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Esther Ueda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Donovan Dela Cruz , Vice-Chair Sharon Moriwaki and Committee members

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2553 SD1 which amends the provisions of the Hawaii Retirement Savings Program.

As a former State employee who has been retired for over 20 years and had the benefits of both the State's retirement system and the State sponsored Deferred Compensation system, I can attest to the necessity of a strong savings plan for your retirement years.

I see many present workers not saving enough for their "Golden Years". We have seen during the recent Pandemic how many families were ill prepared and did not have sufficient savings. I strongly believe that the provisions of this program will help more people develop a stronger savings program for themselves. The proposed "opt out" provision in this bill will at least give more people the incentive to try out the program and hopefully save more.

Please support SB2553 SD1.

Thank you.

Esther Ueda, Pearl City

LATE

SB-2553-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 10:52:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Buckovetz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Kupuna Wahine in Kailua Kona, I strongly support the change of allowing automatic enrollment with an opt out provision for private employees to save for retirement and enable small businesses to participate. If I had had this program when working, my struggles as a kupuna to meet basic needs could have been lessened greatly. Let's support our current and future workforce by providing a retirement savings program that will greatly benefit their future as retirees. You can make a real difference and change lives!

Mahalo nui, Katherine Buckovetz

LATE

SB-2553-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 9:50:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Warren Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi

I live in Nuuanu. I strongly support SB 2553, SD 1 relating to the Hawaii Retirement Savings Act. This bill will amend and align the retirement savings program to be an automatic enrollment with the opt-out feature which will make it easier for private sector workers to contribute towards their retirement savings. It is important that people save as much as they can and build their future financial security. This bill will help Hawaii launch a robust program that will benefit many workers and small business employers in the state. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2553, SD1. It will help assure financial security for people who live and work in Hawaii.